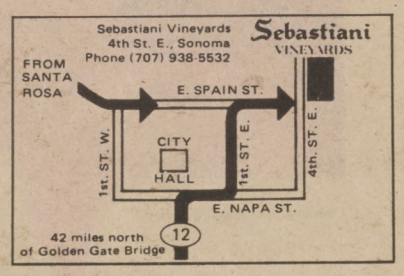
OFFICIAL
PROGRAM
31st Annual
VALLEY OF THE MOON
Vintage Festival
Sept. 22, 23, 24, 25, 1977
SUPPLEMENT TO
The Sonoma
INDEX-TRIBUNE
Sept. 22, 1977

You're invited to see the carved casks of Historic Sebastiani Cellars

The centuries-old European tradition of carving wine casks has been revived here in the cellars of our winery. In fact, our wood carver, 77 year old Earle Brown, just can't let his chisels rest for a moment. Everything made of wood is fair game for his carving talents. As a result of these artistic creations the winery has become a veritable gallery for his work. From posts, beams and doors to casks and vats, nothing escapes his busy tools. What better complement to the art of wine making?

We invite you to judge for yourself. Visit our cellars and view the carvings . . . then taste the wine.

Guided tours are conducted daily from 10 to 6.



August Sebastiani

SAMUELE SEBASTIANI VINEYARD AND WINERY
HERE IN 1825 THE FRANCISCAN FATHERS OF SAN FRANCISCO SOLANO DE SONOMA MISSION PLANTED THE FIRST VINEYARD IN SONOMA VALLEY. THE GRAPES WERE USED FOR MAKING SACRAMENTAL WINES. AFTER SECULARIZATION OF THE MISSION IN 1835, GENERAL MARIANO G. VALLEJO, COMMANDANT OF ALTA CALIFORNIA'S NORTHERN FRONTIER, PROMOTED VITICULTURE AND MADE WINES FROM THESE GRAPES. SAMUELE SEBASTIANI AND HIS WIFE, ELVIRA, PURCHASED THIS PROPERTY IN THE EARLY 1900'S. A YOUNG IMMIGRANT FROM ITALY, HE HAD COME HERE TO MAKE HIS FORTUNE. SINCE THAT TIME HE AND HIS FAMILY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY CONTINUED WITH INSTRUCTIVE TRADITIONS HANDED DOWN TO THEM THROUGH THE YEARS. MUCH OF THE ORIGINAL MISSION VINEYARD IS STILL PLANTED TO CHOICE WINE GRAPES.
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 739

Sebastiani
VINEYARDS
EST. 1825

P.O. Box AA Sonoma CA 95476

Officers 1977

VALLEY OF THE MOON VINTAGE FESTIVAL

ASSOCIATION, INC.

Sonoma, Calif.

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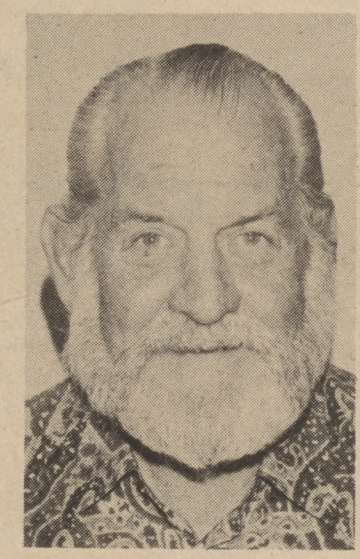

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WINE TASTING.....Jo James, Jan Haraszthy
BOOTHS.Bob Petersen, Evan Ross
PARADE....Shirley Rist, Carl August, Fred Van Ogle
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WINDOW DISPLAY....Jo James, Evan Ross, Connie Thomason
HOSPITALITY ROOM.....Carol Sharp
PUBLICITY.....John Licata
COSTUMES.....Carol Groseth
WEDDING.....Evan Ross, Jo Nagel
THREE-FINGERED JACK.....Mel Hunter
LOGISTICS.....Frank Cummings
BLESSING OF GRAPES.....Robert Carver
TROPHIES AND AWARDS.....Carl August

Past Presidents are honored

Honored invited guests at the wine tasting at Chateau St. Jean Winery are the past presidents of the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival Association. They are:

1947 -- James F. Lyttle
1948 -- Dan Ruggles
1949 -- August Pinelli
1954 -- Carolyn Wolfe
1957-58 -- Esther Pagani Gowans
1959 -- Col. J.V. Thebaud
1960 -- Luis Vela
1961 -- Hudson Auberlin
1962 -- R.H. (Bob) Brown
1963 -- Ray Sampson
1967 -- Henri Maysonnave
1968 -- Dr. Allan Querin
1969 -- Jack Adams
1970-71 -- Col. Paul Walker
1972 -- Merlyn Hunter
1973 -- Dr. Ralph Kelly
1974 -- Sue Stanley
1975 -- Toni Schaffner
1976 -- Elaine Sheffer

1977 PATRON MEMBERS

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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Machado
Frederick B. and Ms. Elsa Mangelsdorf
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Markson (Sonoma Physical Therapy Center)
Mr. and Mrs. John Marsh
Ernestine McNab
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Maedeiros (Tiffany's Figure Salon)
Marie L. Merlo (El Dorado on the Plaza)
Mabel Miller and Charles Foster

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Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Mothorn
Dr. and Mrs. William Newman
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nicholson

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Mr. and Mrs. Lester Prather
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AMONG VINTAGE FESTIVAL FEATURES

THE WEDDING of the sons of General Vallejo and the daughters of Count Agoston Haraszthy is a popular vignette feature at each Vintage Festival celebration. Setting for the "wedding" is the old Sonoma Mission, where singing, dancing and colorful costumes prevail. The double wedding will be enacted on Saturday and Sunday, starting at 1 p.m.

Vallejo-Haraszthy wedding

One of the principal historic vignettes at the Festival is the one re-enacting the double wedding of two of General Mariano G. Vallejo's daughters with two sons of Count Agoston Haraszthy, known as the Father of California Viticulture.

The following persons will take part in this colorful dramatization:

Jan and Mianna Haraszthy, Sue Stanley, Bob and Jean Peterson, Mef and Jerry Graham, Dick Stanley.

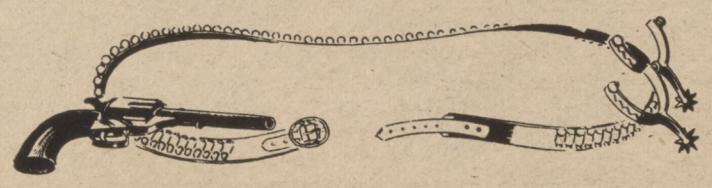
Susan Scarbrough, Elaine Sheffer, Frank Cummings, Michael Giometti, Renee Loustalot.

Lisa Graham, Carol Alvarez, Toni Schaffner, Nick Schaffner.

Laura and Barry Bosshard, Bob Carver, Jo Nagel and daughter, Alice and Evan Ross, Dorene Musilli.

Bill Sharp, Carol Sharp, Kate Sharp.

THREE-FINGERED JACK AND FRIENDS
Mel Hunter plays role of early-day bandito



The Bear Flag incident

A re-enactment of the revolt by a group of early California settlers and visitors to Sonoma dissatisfied with Mexico's rule over California. They seize the military barracks here and take General Vallejo prisoner. In the Plaza they pull down the Mexican emblem and raise the home made Bear Flag, proclaiming a California Republic.

Participants include the actors fromthe Three-Fingered Jack episode.

Native American Indian dances

A rare opportunity will be given Sonoma and its visitors during the Vintage Festival on Sunday, Sept. 25. At noon on the northeast corner of the Plaza, Chief Allen James of the Kashia Pomo of Stewart's Point will present a group of dancers performing authentic Kashia tribal Hosia and Ioto Manew recreational dances.

Four or five male dancers, two singers, and one rhythm keeper will take part. Those participating are Delmar James, Hermy Pinola, Randy Pinola, the two Smith boys, and the James Family -- Allen James, Merline James and one rhythm keeper -- all from Stewart's Point, Santa Rosa and Sebastopol. Children's friendship dances will be performed.

Chief James will act as master of ceremonies. The dancers will wear colorful feather headdresses and "fancy dress" such as those worn in ancient times when these unusual dances were performed in Kashia Pomo tribal ceremonies.

This is the first time in over 100 years that these beautiful kashia Pomo tribal dances have been seen in Sonoma.

Old photographs exhibit

The Sonoma League for Historic Preservation will have a disply of old photographs of early Sonoma wineries on exhibit at the Vasquez House during the Vintage Festival.

The Vasquez House is headquarters for the League and is located in the El Paseo complex on First st. east.

The photographs have been loaned by the Sebastiani, Buena Vista and Hacienda wineries.

The exhibit will actually start on Sept. 14 and continue through Oct. 18. The Vasquez House is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

The arrival of Three-Fingered Jack

In front of old Swiss Hotel on Spain st., built by Salvador Vallejo, will be the most action-filled vignette of the Festival at 3 p.m. Saturday only. There is always a certain amount of history unrecorded, but reported. Authenticating all incidents is impossible. But stories are handed down. Such is the legend of Three-Fingered Jack. History does tell us that the notorious bandit Joaquin Murietta stopped in Sonoma during his legendary career as the Robin Hood-type bandito. It is said that on these visits he was accompanied by the dangerous Three-Fingered Jack.

Participants -- Mel Hunter as Three-Fingered Jack. Bill Hansen, Larry Hunter, K. C. Murphy, Richard McClure, Ed Murphy, Jim Schroer, Gayle Hunter, Heath Hunter, Gary Benguerel, Dennis Herold, Fred Van Ogle, Barbara Hansen, Pat Chiurco, Linda Hunter, Mona Murphy, Marie Lambert, Donna Van Ogle, Nancy Benguerel, Ruth Kingsley, Heather Hunter, Diane Schroer.

The Blessing of the Grapes

The Blessing of the Grapes ceremony is the initial observance in a two-day program of Sonoma Valley's annual Vintage Festival. In keeping with tradition, priests representing the padres who established Mission San Francisco Solano de Sonoma in 1832, conduct the services. It is an expression of thanks for the bounteous harvest of the region.

During the ceremony, produce from the vineyards is used to symbolize the valley's harvest because grapevines have been so important in Sonoma history.

In 1825, the Franciscan padres planted grape vines to obtain wines of sacramental purposes. Part of this vineyard survives today in the Sebastiani properties northeast of the Mission.

In 1835, General Mariano G. Vallejo, commandant of the Alta California northern frontier, planted other varieties of grapes and in addition to his military skills became famous for his unusually delicious table wines.

In 1857, Agoston Haraszthy, a Hungarian nobleman with a passion for growing things, planted 560 acres at Buena Vista in carefully selected grape cuttings which he brought from Europe. From this beginning, choice vintage California wines became world famous. The original acreage is still producing.

In the 1890s European vineyards were ravaged by a blight called Phylloxera. It was discovered that roots growing in California had become disease-resistant to the blight and thousands and thousands of California grape cuttings were sent back to the places they came from originally to help save European vineyards. The project was successful and the story has become an important part of the history of viticulture.

During 1974 there has been a large increase in the amount of acreage devoted to the growing of vintage grapes. Amid Sonoma Valley's pastoral beauty, citizens feel fortunate for the area's history, its richness and neighborliness.

So each year a Blessing of the Grapes ceremony is conducted to express thanks for the harvest and good fortune the valley enjoys.

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--Sept. 1976 photo by John Haskett, Glen Ellen

THE WINERIES OF SONOMA VALLEY

Here is a list of our Sonoma Valley wineries, their schedules and where they're located:

CHATEAU ST. JEAN -- Located at 8555 Highway 12 in Kenwood. Open daily 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tours by appointment only. Picnic area provided.

KENWOOD VINEYARDS -- Located at 9592 Highway 12 in Kenwood. Tasting room open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. No tours.

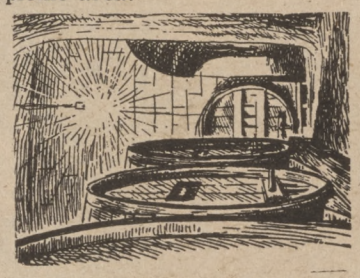
VALLEY OF THE MOON WINERY -- Located at 777 Madrone road, north of Boyes Hot Springs off of Highway 12. Tasting room open daily 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursdays. No tours. Picnic area provided.

GRAND CRU VINEYARDS -- Located at 1 Vintage Lane in Glen Ellen, set behind Dunbar Elementary School on Dunbar road, off of Highway 12. Open Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tastings and tours by appointment only. Call 996-8100.

HANZELL VINEYARDS -- Located at the end of Lomita avenue above Boyes Hot Springs. Visitors by appointment only. Call 996-3860 or 996-0431.

SEBASTIANI VINEYARDS -- Located at 388 Fourth street east in Sonoma, east one mile from plaza. Tasting room open daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Urged that visitors get there early on weekends. Guided tours given.

HACIENDA WINE CELLARS -- Located at 1000 Vineyard Lane in Sonoma. From plaza, go east on Napa street to Seventh street east, turn left to Castle road, continue straight to Vineyard lane. Tasting room open daily, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Picturesque picnic area.



BUENA VISTA WINERY -- Located at 18000 Old Winery road, Sonoma. Take Napa street east from plaza, turn left on to Old Wi enery rd. Tasting room open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Self-donducted tours. Shady picnic area.

ZD WINERY -- Located off of Burndale road in Vineburg, off of Napa road. Visitors on weekends by appointment only. Call 539-9137.

GUNDLACH-BUNDSCHU WINERY -- Located at 3775 Thornsberry road, Sonoma. Take Napa street, east to Old Winery road, to Lovall Valley rd., proceed to Thornsberry rd. Tasting room open Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Picnic area provided.

WHERE THE ROYAL VINTAGES SLEEP
Some of the vats at the Sebastiani Winery.

AN ADOBE WITH A HISTORY. El Dorado is among the first adobe buildings erected in Sonoma by Don Salvado Vallejo. He was a brother of General Mariano G. Vallejo, founder of Sonoma in 1835. The adobe building on the west side of the Sonoma Plaza, which includes El Dorado, was a favorite hotel in the 'forties. Pierce and Randolph were the best known proprietors after the Bear Flag raising and American occupancy. The Salvador Vallejo adobe was also an early school, and theatrical performances were held upstairs with an entrance on Spain Street.

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- **Luncheons** Till 3 PM Daily
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NORTHWEST CORNER OF SONOMA PLAZA

No Chinese vintners here? Who says?

By WILLIAM F. HEINTZ

Despite all that has been written about the Chinese who worked in vineyards or wineries at one time in California, there are no stories about Chinese wine makers.

Why not?

"Chinese don't like wine and don't drink it" is a typical response whenever this question is raised.

This assumes, of course, that since Chinese don't care for our wine, they would not want to make it.

There is much in American cooking today the Chinese don't like but many of the best chefs in this country are Chinese! (A good example here in Sonoma is Chef Freddie Wing at the Swiss Hotel.)

THERE HAS to be another explanation why the Chinese vintner doesn't seem to exist in written history at least. It may also help explain why no one in Sonoma Valley can readily recall a Chinese wine maker named Young Moon.

A Santa Rosa newspaper for February 17, 1937 has a few sketchy details in an obituary on Moon:

"As a young man, Moon had worked in the old Chauvet winery and distillery in Glen Ellen and was recognized as an experienced brandy distiller and blender."

If this statement is true, Moon deserves the honor of being called a "vintner" even though his work was with brandy.

Eighty-seven year old Hazen Cowan of Glen Ellen (before his recent death) did recall seeing Moon at work in the Chauvet Winery but admitted: "I didn't think of him as a wine maker."

Two grandchildren of Joshua Chauvet, the winery's founder, often saw Moon at work around the distillery until about the time of the 1906 earthquake.

"He left for Santa Rosa and went to work for the Elks," both recall but they never thought of him as much more than a winery worker.

AUTHOR IDWAL JONES, for many years a columnist on the San Francisco Examiner, wrote a book in 1949 which presents a different perspective -- or seems to. In his "Vines in the Sun," Jones writes:

"I came upon the track of a Chinese of another sort. That was up around Glen Ellen . . . Bow Sang Kee had also acquired the knack of tasting and was known to local vintners as a 'matcher.'

"He sampled the musts, or fermented juice in the vats, before and after blending, and judged how far it fell short of the wine that was aimed at."

The story goes on to describe the role Bow Sang Kee played in local wine making but labelled him a laundryman by profession.

There is good reason to believe Jones had his names confused and he was really describing Young Moon. Both Hazen Cowan and Arthur Wigett (still living in Glen Ellen) recall the laundryman and insist he had nothing to do with wine.

Their conclusion: Jones was writing about Moon. (Jones gives no source for this story).

So it is possible there was a Chinese vintner right here in Sonoma Valley, at least up to the year 1906. Carrie Burlingame (before her recent death) insisted the old Gundlach-Dresel Winery and Kady's Winery of Agua Caliente, had Chinese cellar bosses "who did just about everything" in the winery.

YOUNG MOON

CONSIDERING the evidence that Chinese made up about 80-90 percent of the vineyard and winery help in the last century, there must have been more Chinese wine makers scattered about the state. And their contribution to California viticulture is equally lost or hidden still in the pages of history.

Sonoma Valley may at least deserve the honor of bringing the first, belated recognition to a master Chinese vintner and brandy maker.

WINE LABEL for General Mariano G. Vallejo's own wines was done in gold and black. Vallejo's vintages won many awards at the California State Fair.

Valley looked like one vast vineyard in 1870

Entering the Sonoma Valley over the dividing ridge on the old county road from Napa in the year 1870 in June, the valley appeared suddenly to the beholder as one vast vineyard.

Beginning with the foothills above San Pablo bay at the entrance to the valley and continuing several miles beyond Glen Ellen, a stretch of over 18 miles.

At that time, more than 100 years ago, the valley contained many thousands of acres of vines in the hands of many small owners, and several large ones. One of the latter, Buena Vista Vineyards, had 500 acres of bearing vines, then one of the largest vineyards in the state.

The average crop for a few years prior to, and for several years after 1870 for the Sonoma Valley exceeded two million gallons annually.

THE VINES continued to flourish until in the summer of 1874 the first phylloxera was manifested in several vineyards through circular spots of infection.

In the course of but six years nearly all the vines of the valley were wiped out by this pest, reducing the vintage of two million gallons annually to less than three hundred thousand for the entire valley.

Although many vineyardists became discouraged and refused to replant, a few courageous winemen did so, and with the assistance of phylloxera-proof roots conquered the pest and became the foundation builders for today's world-acclaimed fine vineyards, and the wines these locally-grown grapes produce.

David's
VINTAGE FESTIVAL GREETINGS
From David's in Fiesta Center
Men's, Women's and Children's Apparel & Shoes
OPEN SUNDAYS 11 TO 4

Author Jack London was also a farmer

By RUSS KINGMAN

Less than a month before his death Jack London wrote to Geddes Smith, "I have no country home. I am a farmer. It is because I am a farmer that I live in the country. I am that sort of farmer, who, after delving in all the books to satisfy his quest for economic wisdom, returns to the soil as the source and foundation of all economics."

Two weeks earlier in a letter to Leon Weilskov he said, " . . . in 'The Little Lady of the Big House' and 'The Valley of the Moon,' I have expressed much of my heart toward the land."

Several writers have mistakenly called Jack a "Baron" and pictured his ranch as a "Gentleman's Ranch." Nothing could be farther from the truth. From the very start the Jack London Ranch was a working ranch. It was never intended to be a rich man's play-toy and never was.

It is true that the ranch was not paying its own way but this is true of any new ranch. It takes years of sweat, blood and tears before any ranch operates in the black. Jack's brilliant way with words paid the bills but each year it grew better and better under his expertise.

JACK LONDON was always more interested in others than in himself. He never needed Socialism - when it came to dealing with the capitalists he was a superman. However, he joined the Socialist Party and his life-long activity as the party's propogandist cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars.

His only reason was that he sincerely believed that the only hope for the future of the exploited poor was under a Socialist government.

His ranch was no different. Charmian London knew her husband's heart. She said, "He was, in short, really far more interested in introducing better farming into Sonoma County and the country at large than he was in leaving behind masterpieces of literature."

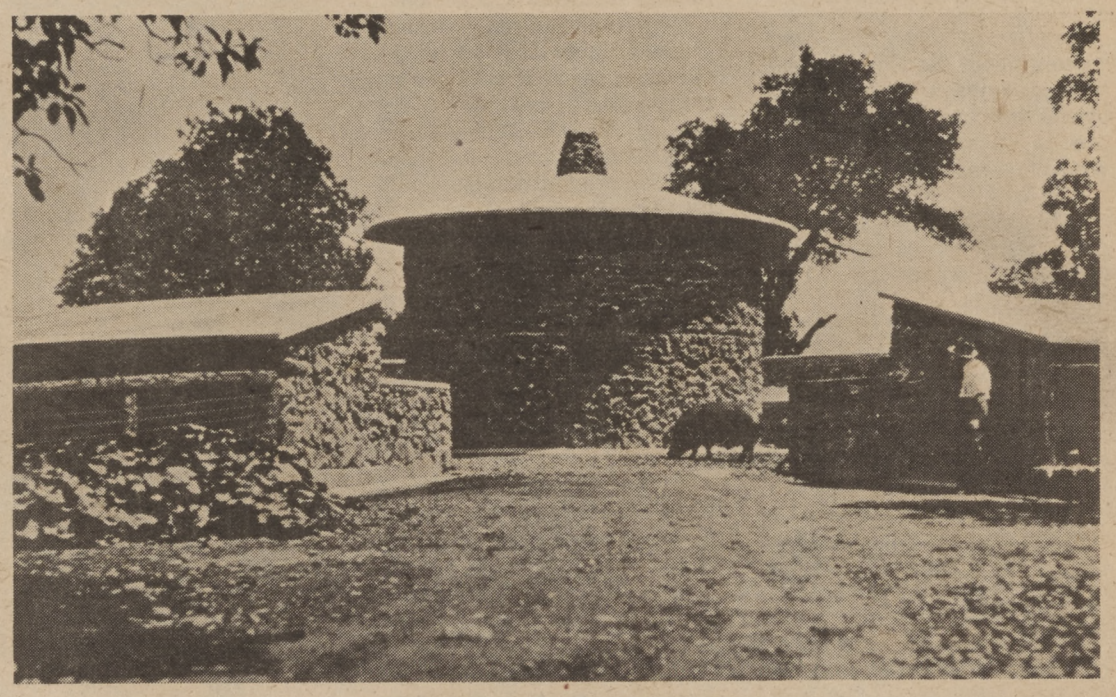
Only the very finest and most high-bred animals were brought to the ranch and they were always made available at no cost to his neighbors for breeding purposes.

In the later years Jack devoted two hours a day to his literary career and the rest to the study of agriculture. He read every bulletin the government printed, he went to the agricultural college professors for advice and made his ranch the test site for the newest ideas.

Luther Burbank and Jack worked together in the development of the spineless cactus on the Glen Ellen ranch. After a thorough study of farming in other states he constructed his own concrete blocks and erected the first two concrete silos in California.

The experts said it wouldn't work but the silos proved to be perfect in every way and are still sound and usable today.

Everything was designed for service and permanence. Concrete and rocks were used wherever possible. Concrete watering troughs were placed all around the ranch and are still in excellent condition.



THE PIG PALACE AT LONDON RANCH
The famous author was a scientific farmer.

A STURDY DAM of concrete still contains a beautiful lake. His barns of rock are still sturdy structures. It is more than proper that his ashes rest under the largest rock of all.

One of Jack's most publicized projects was the piggery he designed. It was called the "Pig Palace" and to the casual observer it did appear a little opulent. However, on closer look one immediately realized that this was probably the most practical pig pen ever designed.

The top floor of the circular building in the center contained the ground alfalfa and grain from which the feed poured automatically through galvanized pipe into a large cement mixing basin. Here it was mixed with water and carried to the individual pig pens which were arranged in a circle around the feed-building.

One man could easily handle the entire swine population of registered Duroc Jerseys. At night the pigs slept on movable wooden planks which were raised every morning for hosing down the concrete floors. The back door of each pig suite opened on several acres of land shaded by oaks and madrones.

"I AM NOT raising live stock for the butcher," said Jack, "but for the breeder or anybody that wants the best of thoroughbreds."

Jack's program of soil enrichment and his excellent methods of animal husbandry would have created the finest ranch in California in a few years. It takes many years and a lot of money to create a fine ranch. Tragically, he died before the ranch's sixth birthday.

Many times the question comes up as to what would be the most suitable memorial to Jack London. This is an easy question to answer because his

Please turn to Page 9

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Jack London the farmer

Continued from Page 8

whole heart and soul was in the ranch. The best possible memorial would be for the State of California to acquire the entire 1300 plus acres and restore the ranch. With the buildings restored, beautiful Shire horses grazing in the pastures, Duroc Jersey hogs in the restored Pig Palace and the rest of the ranch in fine condition it would be a mecca for the many children and a lot of adults who have never seen a real working ranch.

Jack London is still our most popular author and he was many other things during his life but above all he was a farmer.

THREE AG WIZARDS
Edgar Larkin, Luther Burbank and Jack London.

LONDON'S CREDO

I would rather be ashes than dust!
I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze than it should be stifled by dryrot.
I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet.
The proper function of man is to live, not to exist.
I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them.
I shall use my time.

--Jack London (1876-1916)

(The noted author died in 1916 at the age of 40 at his ranch in Glen Ellen, now a state and national historic landmark.)

A CALIFORNIA VINTAGE OF THE 1870s
Many Chinese worked in the vineyards at that time

Indians at Sonoma Mission represented 35 tribes

The Indians who became neophytes at the Sonoma Mission represented 35 different tribes, yet they worked together harmoniously, and in 1830 were possessed of over 8,000 cattle, sheep and hroses.

Their crops averaged nearly 2,000 bushels of grain per year.

The number of baptisms recorded in the 12 years before secularization was over 1,300.

In 1834 the mission was secularized by General Mariano G. Vallejo, who quarreled with Father Quijas, then in charge, the latter immediately retiring to San Rafael.

The movable property was distributed to the Indians and they were allowed to live on their old rancherias.

The pagan Indians so harrassed the mission Indians that the latter placed all their stock in General Vallejo's charge, asking him to care for it for them. They had great faith in Vallejo, and he seems to have acted fairly by them. Vallejo made friends with the native chief, Solano, and used his influence with the Indians for peace.

The mission had a population in 1832 of 936 souls. Much trouble was experienced with horse thieves in 1838, and following that, small pox broke out, and thousands of northern Indians were swept away. The dreadful epidemic came from the settlement of Fort Ross. Fortunately, it did not spread south of the bay region.

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Sonoma Barracks will soon appear again much as it did in 1846

By LARRY PAYNTER
(Historical research by Interpretive Services Section, California Department of Parks and Recreation).

The Sonoma Barracks building will soon appear again much as it did in 1846, the year of the Bear Flag Rebellion and the raising of the Stars and Stripes over California.

The barracks played a significant role in the history of a vast area north of San Francisco Bay in the late 1830s and the 1840s. That history can be largely traced by following the fortunes and misfortunes of Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, Mexican miliatry commander of the region.

By coincidence, Vallejo was born on the Fourth of July, 1807. On his 39th birthday, July 4, 1846, he was languishing in jail, "arrested" by a group of American frontiersmen -- the Bear Flag rebels -- and soon to be "rescued" by United States troops.

Vallejo's northern California military and political career began in 1831, when he was named Commander of the Presidio at San Francisco.

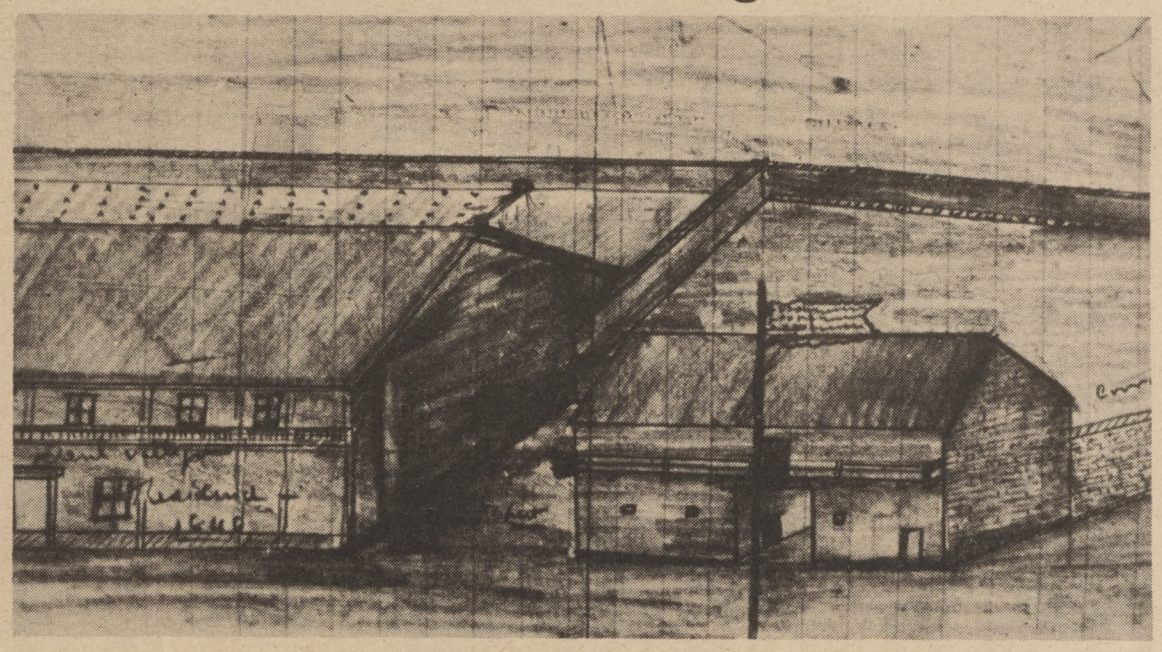
In 1834, he was appointed Military Commander and Director of Colonization of the Northern Frontier, with a specific request to take charge of the mission at Sonoma, free the Indian workers, and distribute the mission lands and other assets among the people.

THE MEXICAN GOVERNOR OF California, Jose Figueroa, gave Vallejo ten leagues (44,000 acres) of land in the Petaluma Valley to develop as a private rancho, and Vallejo soon became one of the wealthiest and most influential men in California.

By 1836, General Vallejo saw a need for a military barracks in Sonoma as a base of operations against threats from hostile Native American Indians and perhaps as a reminder to the Russians at Fort Ross and Bodega and the growing number of American settlers that northern California was Mexican territory.

The barracks was begun that year. It was laid out in a rectangle 48 by 123 feet. It was to be two stories high, with four equal-sized rooms in each story.

A 15-foot wide passageway would lead through the middle of the lower story of the plaza side to the courtyard, which was to be surrounded by an adobe wall eight to 10 feet high. Above the passageway in the second story would be two large halls.



THE SONOMA BARRACKS IN 1848-49
When it was used as local U.S. military headquarters.

The work went slowly, It was five years -- 1841 -- before the barracks was ready for use, and it was never completely finished.

The walls were of adobe brick, made by hand from the soil of the immediate area. The labor for making the bricks was provided by Indians that Vallejo's men brought in from the surrounding hills.

The bricks were laid by the mission Indians, whom the Mexicans were able to train in workmen's skills.

The lower rooms had no floors other than plain earth. Upstairs, the two front rooms and the halls were floored with planks. The rooms probably were used for sleeping. The two back upstairs rooms still had no floors by 1846, but joists were laid for flooring.

THERE ARE indications Vallejo's soldiers were using the barracks by 1841. We don't know how many soldiers moved in. Many of the married soldiers had their own homes built on land granted by Vallejo.

Many of the single soldiers boarded with families or lived on Vallejo's rancho at Petaluma. Also, the number of troops under his command fluctuated as men enlisted and others left the service.

During the 1830s, the regular army had been replaced by a militia -- volunteers who lived in their own homes. By 1842, General Vallejo maintained a private army entirely paid for out of his own fortune. They acted as his bodygurad.

A few of the single men in his army probably lived in the

Please turn to Page 12

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Sonoma Barracks--its current restoration

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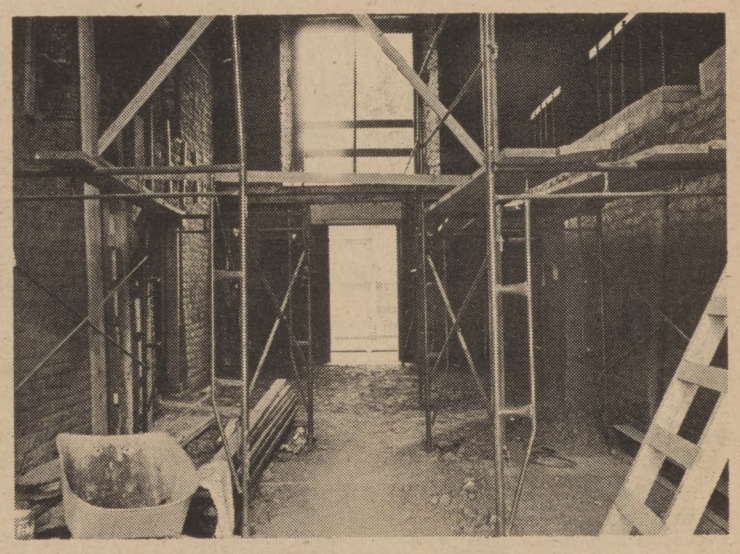

INTERIOR OF BARRACKS TODAY

BARRACKS BALCONY IS OUT

Continued from Page 11

barracks, as well as soldiers on guard duty.

One visitor to Sonoma in 1842 noted that ". . . the General and Captain have only 13 troopers under their command . . . all mere boys." They probably lived in the barracks, possibly on the second floor.

Vallejo probably had a "company clerk", a "commissary sergeant", or both with office space in the barracks. The clerk would keep records of military equipment and supplies. The commissary sergeant would maintain records of provisions for the troops, cattle slaughtered, and distribution of rations.

Jose Berryesa was Vallejo's secretary or writer from 1838 to 1839, and he may also have served as company clerk and commissary sergeant.

BERRYESA LATER said there was a kitchen or cookhouse, probably at the rear of the courtyard and possibly serving both the barracks and Vallejo's home. Married soldiers probably ate at home and the single men ate at the barracks.

The barracks also housed Vallejo's armory, which would have included Spanish muskets, carbines, pistols and ammunition. The presidial troopers may have carried a variety of arms as the Mexican government purchased arms from other countries after 1830, California officers and officials bought arms from civilian sources, and old and obsolete weapons were used by both garrison soldiers and civilians in California.

Many of the old Spanish muskets and carbines were soon replaced with .75 caliber Tower muskets, imported from England, and.69 caliber pistols. Each Tower musket took several ounces of black powder for a one-ounce lead ball. Accurate range for a stationary target was about 100 yards.

The Mexicans did not use firearms much for hunting; they preferred lances, knives and riatas, or lariats. These weapons, plus swords, were also the most common and most trustworthy arms for the Mexican soldiers.

They were always ready for use. They didn't have to be reloaded. And they didn't leave a dense cloud of smoke every time they were used, as the firearms did with their charges of black powder.

General Vallejo was said to have maintained a traditional military discipline at the Sonoma barracks despite the fact that his troops seldom were with him very long. Vallejo's military attitude was ingrained from youth, and his soldiers became accustomed to obeying orders.

A VISITOR to Sonoma in 1842 noted that "In all of California there is not such an order, such a strict police and so good protection from the Indians." The superior discipline enabled relatively few Mexican soldiers to overcome large numbers of Indians in battle.

The barracks was also headquarters for military drills, guard duty, and the most dangerous duty of all, carrying mail from one post to another. The barracks soldiers also took care of the horses and the cattle, which were the soldiers' main source of food.

The principal activities in the barracks, aside from sleeping,

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A history of the old Sonoma Barracks

Continued from Page 12

would have occurred during the early evening, while it was still daylight, and would have included playing cards and musical instruments and cleaning and repairing weapons, equipment, and clothing.

We can be sure the furnishings were sparse. The men probably slept on a "petate", a flat bedsack filled with cotton, straw, or wool, spread on the floor each evening.

Other bedding included blankets and pillows from ticking or linen sacks filled with grass. Personal belongings were hung on pegs or kept in canvas or leather bags.

Swords and lances were kept in the sleeping quarters. There may have been a table and benches. Eating utensils were mainly wooden bowls and cups.

The main source of light was daylight through the windows. The soliers also may have used candles or whale oil in a brass cup. A hanging lantern or a flare beside the back door of the building was probably used at night to light the way to outbuildings.

The sleeping quarters may have been unheated, or the men may have used a brazier of coals during cold weather.

In 1844, Vallejo discharged his regular troops to prevent their use in a military dispute in the south. He probably also wanted to eliminate the expense of maintaining the garrison with his own money.

A militia was organized as a cavalry company of 59 men, and most of the former soldiers became rancheros or rancho workers. Others took up hunting and trapping.

AFTER VALLEJO disbanded his troops, he continued to store military equipment in the barracks: nine small, old brass cannon, most unserviceable, about 200 Tower muskets with some ammunition, a few muskets of other types, and 50 carbines.

After the United States troops took over the barracks without opposition in 1846, they made a few repairs and improvements, but the building remained a rather spartan place to live.

By 1860, the barracks was no longer used for military purposes. That year Vallejo remodeled the building as a winery. It was later used as a store, law office, and a private residence.

The Sonoma barracks was purchased by the state in 1958 and partially restored as part of Sonoma State Historic Park.

A massive restoration is now being done under the direction of the California Department of Parks and Recreation, with Riley Elkins, restoration specialist of the Office of the State Architect, in charge of the work.

Some of the earlier restoration work is being redone, mainly to conform to more stringent requirements for earthquake resistance. The restored building will be far safer and more resistant to deterioration than before.

ORIGINAL materials are kept in place wherever they are serviceable enough. When new materials must be used, they are either made or finished essentially by the methods used in the 1830s.

THIS BARRACKS WALL MUST GO

The walls are being supported by an inner skeleton of reinforced concrete, which is being covered by adobe brick made from the common soil of Sopnoma, with addition of straw just as they were made originally. The workmen use a mechanical mixer, but everything else is done by hand.

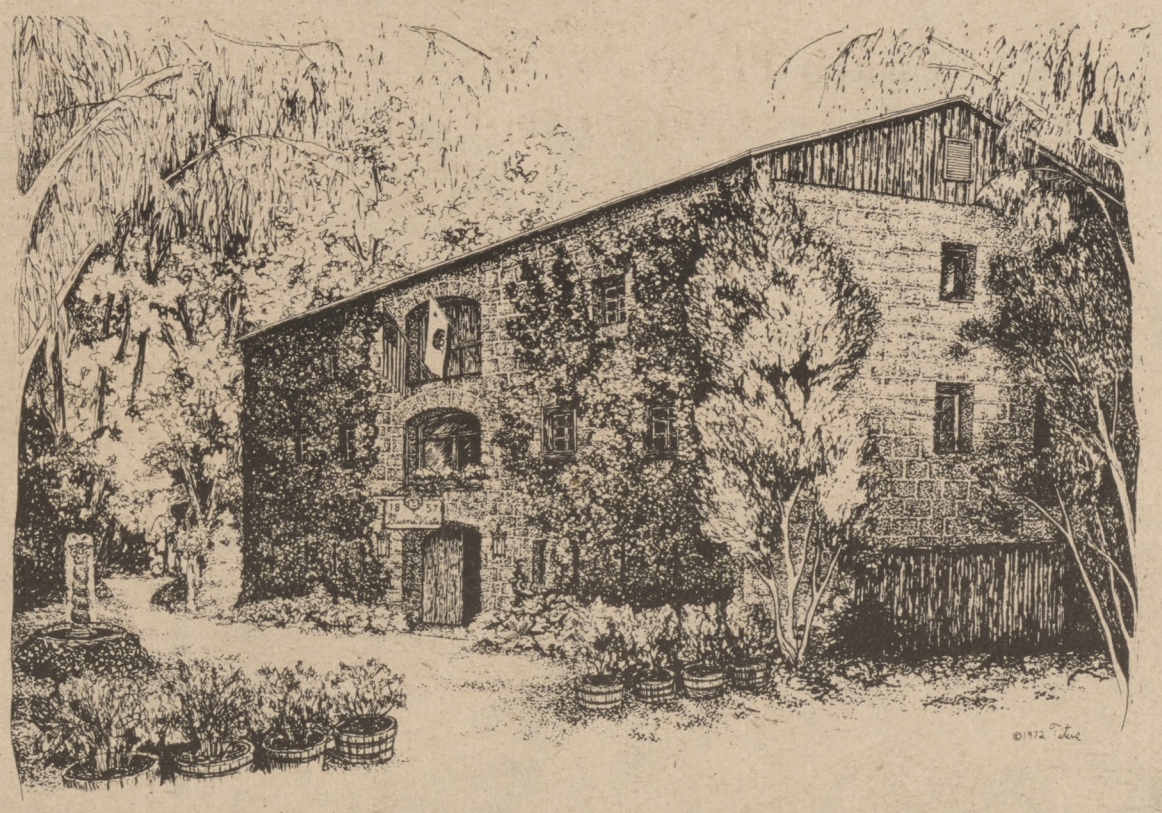
Elkins says the workmen take unusual pride in the work of restoration. They take the attitude or archeologists, calling attention to anything they find that is out of the ordinary and might be of historical significance.

Particular emphasis, Elkins says, is placed on the safety of the workers, since much of the building was badly deteriorated, and a relatively small disturbance of a wall could cause a large section to fall out, endangering the workers as well as damaging the building.

The current restoration work was begun with $90,000 budgeted during the 1974-75 fiscal year from the Bagley Conservation Fund. Most of the funds, $765,585 were budgeted from the 1974 Park and Recreation Bond Fund.

ADOBE BLOCKS FOR BARRACKS

Established 1857



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Clarification: Wine tasting and wine drinking

By RICHARD PAUL HINKLE

A few months ago I attended two events which were as different from one another as gooses and mooses, however similar the pair may sound. Though each event was billed as a "tasting," only one lived up to its billing. The second event was clearly not a tasting, but rather a "drinking."

That's not bad. I enjoy drinkings as much as I enjoy tastings, but it is a tad frustrating to be invited to the one -- expecting the quiet, serious evaluation of a few wines -- and arrive only to discover that the affair is actually the other. Let's take a look at each one and examine the differences between them.

At the first event I attended -- the tasting that was a tasting -- just four wines were to be evaluated by three persons. It is a strong contention of mine that four wines (perhaps six at the outside) are the most that can be competently analyzed at a single sitting. Our sensory organs can only respond to a limited number of stimuli in a given period of time.

AT THE TASTING the room was small and quiet. I don't know that the size of a room has anything to do with anything, but there is no doubt that the serious sensory evaluation of foods or beverages is hampered by any distraction to the senses, so silence is a necessity.

A white table and adequate light allowed for a clear demonstration of the color differences between the wines and the clarity of each. Each of the four bottles was masked so that none of the tasters knew which brand was in which bottle.

We did know that the wines were all Pinot Noir, so we were able to rate them for conformance to varietal character, in nose and flavor.

The bottles were not numbered or lettered with consecutive characters, but were marked with randomly chosen letters. By marking wines sequentially and-or by tasting in a sequence certain prejudices may be unconsciously encountered.

The number "one," for example, exerts a powerful influence over whatever it describes, be it a wine or a football team.

The tasting - that - was - a - drinking was held in the banquet room of a San Francisco hotel. The affair was more a promotional event than it was a tasting. Some thirty-five different wines, representing a well-known European winegrowing region, were scattered among eleven tables.

The noise, with at least sixty people in the room at any given time, would have been intolerable for a serious tasting. The tables did have nearly white covers, but the room's lighting was for effect and was not sufficient to ascertain the color or clarity of the wines.

THE GLASSES were the only things that were above reproach at both the tasting and the drinking. In each case they were of ample size to pour three or four ounces of wine and still have sufficient flute space with which to capture a wine's aroma and bouquet.

At the tasting but one type of food, a bland bread, was available during the evaluation period. Its purpose was to cleanse the palate after each wine, leaving the same, neutral flavor in the mouth for each wine.

At the drinking, however,

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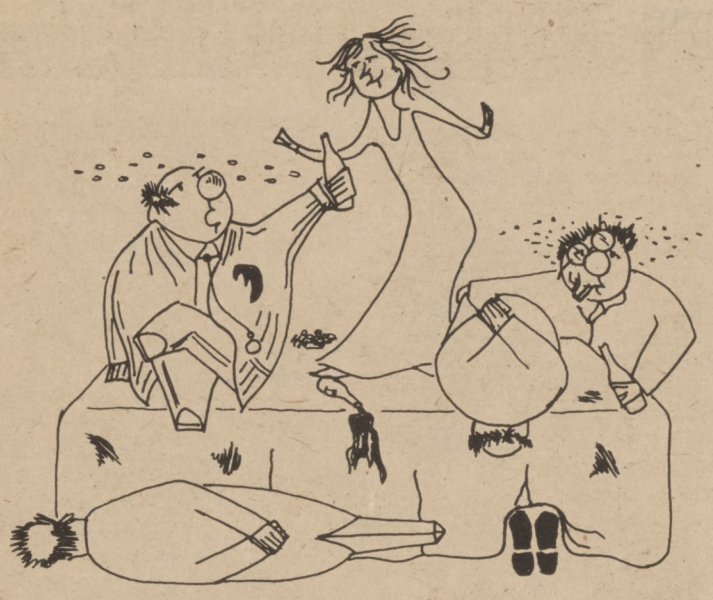


Wine tasting vs. wine drinking

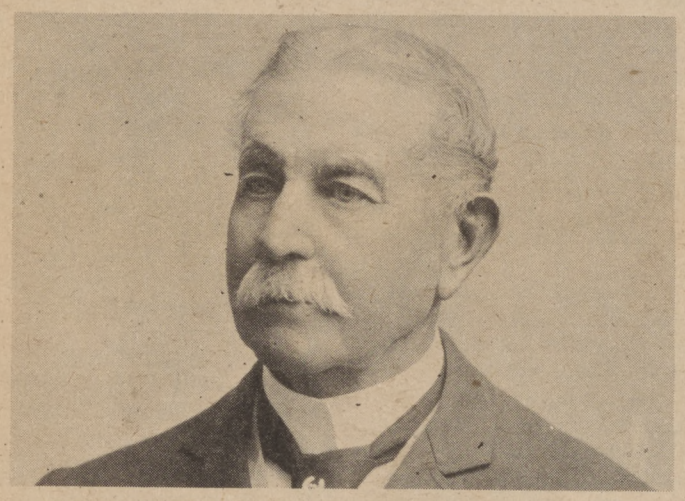
Continued from Page 14

there were several varieties of sharply flavored cheeses (some of which were outstanding), French bread (not as good as Mr. Guerra's), and bread sticks.

As you might guess, none of the thirty-five wines at the drinking were masked, which virtually eliminated any remote possibility for an honest, fair evaluation of them.

LEST YOU conclude that I am being overly picky, or even snobbish, let me remind you that I am merely using the two events to demonstrate the differences between tastings and drinkings.

I make no judgment on either one, but do emphasize that one should not be mistaken for the other. Tastings are for evaluation; drinkings are for fun. Treat them as you would two friends who are entirely different from one another: enjoy each of them for what they are.



CAPTAIN H. E. BOYES -- This Britisher saw the value in the warm mineral springs in Sonoma Valley, and established a health spa which attracted thousands to Boyes Hot Springs.

Wine--it's good for you

The medicinal value of grapes and wine, long touted in folklore of many countries, is getting a boost from science with the discovery that grapes kill viruses, says an Associated Press report.

For centuries, people worldwide have praised the healing benefits of the grape. Roman soldiers used to pour wine into wounds and ancient Egyptian warriors mixed wine with the unfamiliar waters of countries they invaded.

Although it was known for many years that wine kills bacteria, Canadian scientists only recently discovered the antiviral properties.

In a report to the journal Applied and Environmental Microbiology, Researchers for the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare in Ottawa say grapes, grapejuice, raisins and wines show antiviral activity in the test tube.

Microciologists Dr. Jack Konowalchuk and Joan I. Speirs said grapes and grape juice were stronger viral killers than wines. And in every case, red wines were more potent against viruses than white wines.

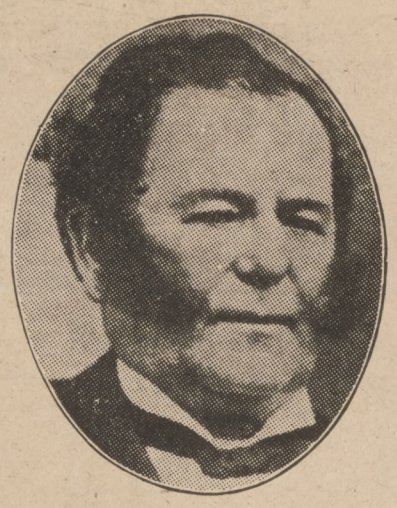
THE RESEARCHERS said there was no way of knowing how these test tube results might apply to human health. But all the viruses in the experiments were those that affect humans, such as herpes simplex and polio virus, which cause herpes infections and polio.

"It is not the policy of the government to advocate drinking wine or anything else," Konowalchuk said in an interview. "But judging from these results, I would say grape juice is a very beneficial drink."

The researchers said the antibacterial properties of wine have been attributed to natural chemicals found in grapes, such as tannic acid and phenols.

Konowalchuk said he suspects the phenols may affect the viruses by binding to them and preventing them from infecting cells and multiplying.

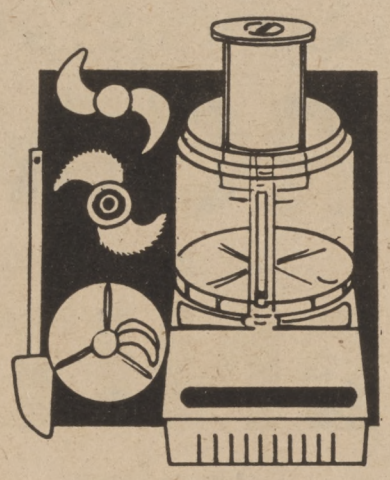
The researchers found that the ability to inactivate viruses comes from grape skins and not the pulp.



GENERAL VALLEJO

Vallejo's vineyard

Sonoma's founder, General Vallejo, planted a large vineyard at his home, Lachryma Montis. In it were the first European varieties of vines planted west of the Rocky Mountains. These vines were sent to him from Washington by a General Green. His efforts met with success, and for many years he carried off the trophies offered by the State Agricultural Society for the best exhibition of native wines.



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A small grape grower says fine vines make fine wines

By HERBERT CERWIN

California wineries and their winemakers get most of the credit for the wine they produce, but where would they be without the right quality of grapes and the vineyardists who grow them?

While most wineries have vineyards, the majority are dependent for grapes from growers whose acreage may be extensive or as little as ten acres.

Few wine drinkers as they sip their wine, and pass critical judgment on its bouquet and taste, seldom give a thought to the growers and the long hours they put in along with such problems as frost, too much sun, not enough, and always the danger of rain during harvest.

HAVING OWNED a vineyard in Sonoma for many years we know the challenge growers face each year, especially with a second year of drought. Small vineyards such as ours are owned by at least fifty or more growers in the Sonoma Valley.

Few make wine and the major portion of their production goes to the wineries. In addition, there are large vineyards commercially farmed.

There used to be an old wives' tale that every year in California is a good year. This is not so. There are years when grapes are better, have a high sugar content and have not been sunburned or hurt by cold weather or rain during harvest.

The soil and climatic conditions are important. We have mostly Gewurztraminer grapes and ten years ago the demand for this variety was so limited we thought of budding or grafting to Pinot Noir or Zinfandel. We fortunately didn't and the price for Gewurztraminer has been as high as Cabernet.

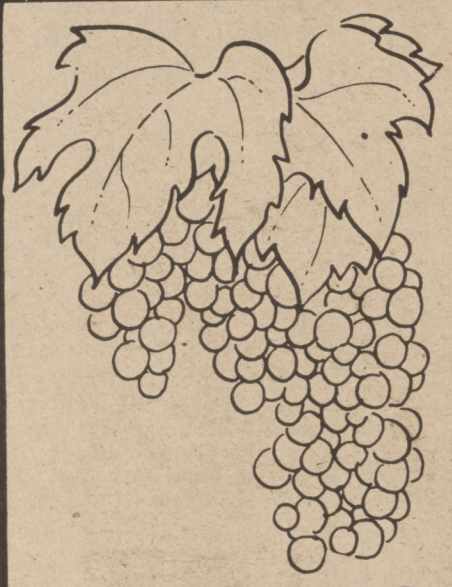
We sell our grapes to Sebastiani and some of their Gewurztraminer comes from our vineyard. We are members of what August Sebastiani calls his grape grower family.

IT IS NOW chic to own a vineyard but when we planted ours, many friends thought we were out of our minds. "Only millionaires own vineyards," they said.

Most of the smaller vineyards are owned by individuals

Please turn to Page 17

HERBERT CERWIN
In his Sonoma Valley vineyard



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BEHIND EL DORADO

Small grape grower speaks out

Continued from Page 16

ranging from architects, physicians, attorneys to retired executives.

There is still considerable mystique to grape growing and no concluding evidence why one variety will do better within a short distance or a few miles away, and in the end, produce a better wine.

Some years ago, the vineyardist who takes care of Romanee Conti found it difficult to explain why across the road the same grape did not have the same quality. "It is a mystery," he told us, "but it is so."

Last fall when we realized we might have another dry year, we put tons of compost in our vineyard. We believe this added humus has helped. Also, because we have never irrigated, our vines have not the thirst of those which have had abundance of water.

AT THE LAZY DEE in Sonoma where wine growers gather and have coffee at five-thirty in the morning, they grumble as all farmers do, but the feeling is that this year should be good. There will be serious trouble, however, if there is not enough rain this winter.

By mid-September and early October when our grapes are hauled to the wineries we will know how we'll fare and how the wineries will do.

A farmer has to be an optimist to survive. Most wine critics laud the wineries. For a change, let's praise the wine grower and pass the wine.

For without the grower, we would have neither the quality nor the quantity of grapes which has made our wine regions so well known.

Says the New York Times

TOM (KANGA) ROONEY of Kenwood sends along a story from the New York Times by its wine columnist Frank J. Prial titled "California Wine Grape." In it, Prial states ". . . there is one red wine grape that is constantly popular with true California wine enthusiasts: the Zinfandel."

One paragraph states "August Sebastiani says Zinfandel should possess bramble flavor, but only he and a few other people know what the flavor of brambles is."

Another paragraph reads: "Bob Thompson, one of the more astute observers of the California wine scene, believes that the best Zinfandels come from Sonoma County, where old Agoston Haraszthy made so much of the grape back in the 1860s . . . "

Charter members of Sonoma Valley Woman's Club, 1901

The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club was founded on September 21, 1901 and has been active and a leading community organization ever since.

Charter members were Mrs. M. P. Akers, Mrs. H. Appleton, Miss B. Aguillon, Mrs. Amelia Bates, Mrs. Sarah Baines, Miss Theo Bates, Mrs. V. Bulotti, Mrs. L. Barbarin, Mrs. Marie Clewe, Miss Doris Clewe, Mrs. B. F. Campbell, Miss Minnie Cooke, Mrs. Sophia Calderwood, Mrs. O. W. Craig, Mrs. J. M. Cheney, Mrs. T. J. Cooper, Mrs. Dorothy Duhring, Mrs. Leanora Duhring, Mrs. J. Dorman, Mrs. Susie Enos, Mrs. Lulu Emparan, Mrs. Belle Green, Mrs. Kate Granice, Miss Celia Granice, Miss Julie Granice, Miss Mattie Goodman, Mrs. Elsie Gottenberg, Mrs. Emma Hotz, Mrs. N. V. Haraszthy, Miss Alice Humphreys, Mrs. Nonie Harris, Mrs. Kate Hill, Mrs. Clara Johnson, Mrs. A. Keiser, Mrs. A. McHarvey, Mrs. Pauline McMullin, Miss Kate McDonald, Mrs. A. Merriam, Mrs. Louisa McElroy, Mrs. O. J. McKinnon, Mrs. Georgia Munfrey, Mrs. T. C. Oliveiri, Mrs. C. Ohm, Miss Anna Pemberton, Mrs. Mary Poulson, Mrs. Rose Pinelli, Mrs. Quartaroli, Miss A. Reinsch, Mrs. L. Roberts, Miss Louis Rufus, Mrs. Martha Stearnes (first president), Mrs. R. G. Shoults, Mrs. Rosie Sartori, Mrs. Shaw, Miss Rue Tate, Mrs. Blanche Weems, Mrs. O. Wagner, Miss Martha Wooster, Mrs. H. Weer, Mrs. M. Whiting, Mrs. Louisa Walliser, Mrs. Eva Weed.

The present clubhouse on First street east was built in 1916.

It was the Woman's Club which went to work and helped secure a Carnegie fund grant to construct the library building in Sonoma Plaza.

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THE AGUA CALIENTE SPRINGS MINERAL PLUNGE, CIRCA 1920

Resort hotels have a history

Agua Caliente Springs resort oldest of them all

By ROBERT M. LYNCH

The Indians of Sonoma Valley are said to be the discoverers of the hot mineral springs here and told the early white settlers of their healing power. The valley's first resort hotel took its name from that given those mineral springs by the Mission fathers -- Agua Caliente.

The handsome native stone, two-story building which last served as the Agua Caliente Springs resort hotel -- in its heyday in the early and mid-1900s -- is still in use today, but as a rest home.

The historic site, however, has the distinction of offering to the public the facilities of the only remaining mineral springs swimming pool in the area. It is reported to be the same tank constructed in the late 1800s. Nino Vailetti is the present operator of the Agua Caliente Springs pool.

While the original Spanish land grant acreage had a number of colorful, early-day owners such as Thaddeus M. Leavenworth, one-time Alcalde of San Francisco; General Mariano G. Vallejo, founder of Sonoma, and General "Fighting Joe" Hoker of Civil War fame, it was a New Englander named Martin K. Cady who first began to develop the mineral springs as a health resort.

Cady came west in 1865, mined for gold, ran a store in Marysville, and eventually became chief coiner at the San Francisco Mint. He resigned that post in 1881 and purchased the Agua Caliente Rancho for $11,000. While he used the land essentially for ranching, and had a winery on the site, he was the first to make use of, commercially, the five mineral water springs on the property.

IN 1886 CADY plated the town of Agua Caliente and also opened the hotel -- a solid adobe structure, two stories in height. Cady also offered the hot mineral baths, gas lights, electric bells for room service, telephone communications with San Francisco, and a convenient location in line with the Sonoma Valley and the Santa Rosa and Carquinez railroads. Cady also advertised the small game and speckled trout available in the surrounding valley foothills.

Cady later became a County Supervisor and in 1890 lost a bid for the state legislature. He sold his 413 acres on March 6, 1895 under the name of the Agua Caliente Land Company to Walter E. Dean to satisfy a $15,000 morgage. Dean, on April 20 of the same year leased the hotel, baths, wine cellar and grounds to a Dr. Nordin from Alameda. Dr. Nordin said he intended to improve the hotel and grounds and conduct it as a first class resort.

Dr. Nordin's wife, Mary, seems to have been the kingpin of the operation, opening the resort in the spring of 1897. She made a rather extravagant claim in The Sonoma Index-Tribune that the hot mineral waters were "noted for their curative properties and last season (1896) scores of afflicted people were permanently cured by bathing and partaking of the health-giving waters." The same article reported that Mrs. Nordin had spent nearly $40,000 on improvements.

The bathing establishment was described in the newspaper account as being attached to the resort -- "a large tank, bath houses with porcelain bathing tubs, dressing rooms and promenade halls." It is this pool which is still in use today.

THE NORDINS were out of the resort business at the end of the 1899 season, the Index-Tribune reporting that a Mrs. H. Stewart had leased the spa. She added two new cottages. In 1901 a Mr. Cooper and a Mr. Shedden leased the hotel, calling it the California Springs Hotel. They dissolved their partnership in Sept. of 1901. The owner, a Mr. Dean, named H. S. Morse as manager.

Agua Caliente Springs then entered its "golden years" when on Nov. 23, 1901 Dean sold the resort for an undisclosed sum to Theodor Richards, a German emigrant who became a success as owner of several hotels in San Francisco.

Soon after his purchase of Agua Caliente Springs, Richards announced a number of improvements he intended to make before opening. He let a contract to Solomon Schocken

Please turn to Page 19

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Agua Caliente Springs--valley's first resort

Continued from Page 18

of Sonoma to bore a seven-inch artesian well to supply the bathing area with a plentiful supply of water, and had an old three-inch well rebored.

His 1902 season was successful, featuring mineral tub baths, a remodeled hotel, and an open-air dancing platform.

By 1905 the hotel and cottages were equipped with every contemporary modern device. Rooms were heated throughout and each had bell service -- and, for the first time, hot and cold running water. Richards had just completed a new stone dining room which he heralded as the largest in the state, capable of accommodating 500 people. He also claimed to have the largest mineral water swimming pool in the state at 75x80 feet. Tennis courts, croquet lawns and archery grounds were also added.

In 1909, the resort was doing so well that Richards added 40 rooms as an annex. The main hotel could now room 300 people. The cottages totaled 20, ranging from 12 and nine rooms down to one.

More additions followed in 1915. Richards' new Festival Hall featured a 40x160 foot maple dance floor and he brought in the best bands to play -- once importing an orchestra from Friberg, Germany at a cost of $5,000. He also built an auditorium in which he presented motion pictures and vaudeville acts.

WHILE THE 1915 season was his greatest, it was also marked by a tragic fire which destroyed the newly expanded hotel, the main part of the dining room and four cottages. Undeterred, Richards rebuilt, having a 50-room brand new hotel constructed of native stone, with Spanish tile roof. That hotel, which stands today, opened on May 5, 1917.

After 18 years of building his resort to fame and success, Theodor Richards died there on February 16, 1919 at the age of 56 after a lingering illness.

His widow assumed sole ownership of the property, but finally sold the resort to Thomas H. Corcoran who had been a business associate of Mr. Richards. This was in 1921.

Corcoran, a San Francisco tavern owner, had not only been an agent in the Bay city for Caliente bottled mineral water, but owned a summer home in the Agua Caliente area. With the advent of Prohibition, he felt compelled to sell his bar at 22nd and Valencia streets in San Francisco, and buy the Agua Caliente Springs Hotel.

His daughter, Mrs. Marge Baccaglio, a long-time Sonoma resident, remembers working at the hotel as a girl, waiting on tables in the big dining room. "It was a popular place," she said. "We were really busy during the three key summer months."

She recalls the busy kitchen with three Chinese cooks. People got three meals a day, "and got plenty for their money!" She remembers guests lining up for 12 o'clock lunch only shortly after having a big breakfast. Attire was informal during the day, with most "dressing up" in the evening for dinner, dancing and shows that were provided. On holiday weekends like the 4th of July and Labor Day she recalls Agua Caliente so crowded that people slept on cots in the lobby of the hotel.

THIS PHOTO of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Corcoran was taken on the Agua Caliente Springs Hotel grounds on May 30, 1921. Mr. Corcoran operated the hotel until his death in 1944.

It cost 25 cents to go swimming in the big mineral pool. An advertising brochure of 1920 claimed "The mineral content of the water, impregnated with radium, almost magically gives new strength and banishes many diseases . . . and are unexcelled in the treatment of nervousness and nerve troubles . . ."

Mrs. Baccaglio said in the off season her dad would open the hotel for special parties and events, and there would be a few "regulars" who would frequent the hotel throughout the year. The bottling works was a year-around operation, the labels on the Caliente Mineral Water containers reading "A Remedy for Rheumatism, Kidney, Liver & Stomach Troubles."

AFTER THE 1929 market crash, business at the Agua Caliente Springs fell off. In the thirties, motels were being built, the two bridges spanning San Francisco Bay were completed, auto travel proliferated and train service declined or was halted. All of these contributed to the decline in patronage of Agua Calinete and the other local resort hotels. Once considered a "nice distance to travel" Sonoma Valley and its resorts were

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THE FORMER Agua Caliente Springs Hotel as it is today. It is a rest home known as the Agua Caliente Villa Residential Care Center and is located at 17250 Vailetti drive.

Agua Caliente Srpings resort

Continued from Page 19

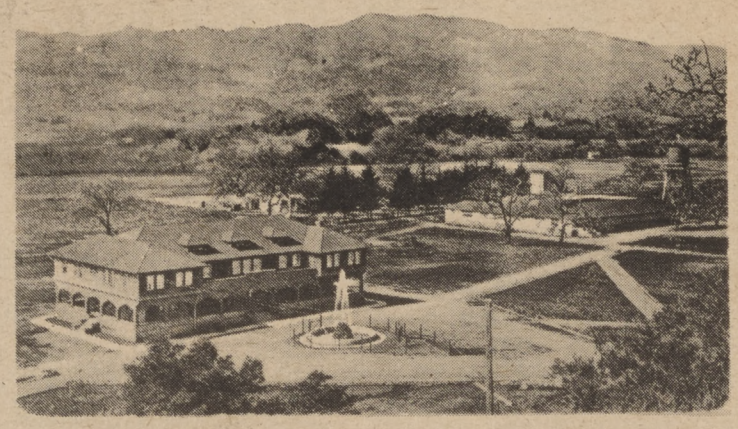
suddenly "too close" to the Bay Area for vacationers.

Tom Corcoran continued to operate the Agua Caliente Springs resort until his death in 1944 in his 70's. His widow, who passed away here in 1969 at the age of 92, sold the hotel after her husband's death to Julia Comino Vailetti of San Francisco.

Olive and Herb Brook were named managers of the hotel during the 1945 summer season, and in 1946 it was leased to partners Eddie Leavitt and Tom Alecia from Southern California. They installed a new bar, dance floor and furnishings and featured a Sunday morning breakfast radio show.

In 1950 Agua Caliente Springs Hotel was leased to a Jack Benjaman and "Chappie" Chapman of San Francisco. In 1951 the leasees had some trouble and the hotel lost its liquor license.

In 1952 the Vailettis turned the hotel into residence apartments. Agua Caliente Springs became a rest home and nursing home under John Canon of San Francisco in 1964. Nino Vailetti operated the rest home for six months, leasing it to Charles Byerly. The hotel was sold on Feb. 1, 1973 to Rev. Thomas Hope of Redding who has since operated it as a rest home.



FETTERS HOT SPRINGS was known as Eleda Hot Springs originally. The hotel and bathhouse were built around 1908. The above photo was from a postal card. Emma and George Fetters changed the name to Fetters Springs when they purchased the spa around 1912.

Resort hotels have a history

Fetters Hot Springs originally known as Eleda Hot Springs

Little historic data is available on another of the popular resort hotels of the early 1900s and beyond in Sonoma Valley -- Fetters Hot Springs -- originally built and known as Eleda Hot Springs upon its completion in 1908.

The two-story wooden structure and its spacious bath house and pavilion a quarter mile to the north, was only a relatively short distance from two other popular spas -- Boyes Hot Springs on the south and Agua Caliente on the north.

A search of local historic files failed to turn up the name of the builder or original owner. But sometime after 1908 the records reveal the property was purchased by a San Francisco couple, Emma and George Fetters.

This colorful pair changed the name of the resort to their own, and the place remained in their operation until the early 1940s. Fetters Springs attracted a loyal clientele, much of it from the Bay area. Like Caliente and Boyes, it featured a large mineral swimming pool, tub baths and a dance pavilion.

About 1945 the Fetters property was acquired by a Terry Nash, who subsequently sold to Max Spiegelman.

IN THE EARLY 1960s the hotel property was purchased by Boyes Springs attorney Jack Coffey in partnership with a San Francisco lawyer, Ted Kukula. Under their ownership the decaying bathhouse was torn down and the hotel was sub-

Please turn to Page 21

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THIS IS HOW the Fetters Springs Hotel looked about 1940 when it was still under the ownership of George T. Fetters. Fetters' son, Albert, is a resident of Santa Rosa.

The Fetters Springs resort

Continued from Page 20

sequently leased to the much-publicized innkeeper, Juanita Musson who had come to the valley from Sausalito in the late 1960s.

Ms. Musson had previously leased the old Verdier's Resort in El Verano and ran the restaurant and bar under the trade name "Juanita's" until the place was destroyed by fire.

She had been at Fetters Springs for less than two years when a fire destroyed that pioneer hostelry on March 23, 1975.

After the fire, Nino Vailetti, owner of the Agua Caliente Springs swimming pool, bought into the partnership, and currently operates the five apartments on the otherwise empty property close by Highway 12.

FIRE DESTROYED the Fetters Hotel (built in 1908 as Eleda Hot Springs Hotel) on March 23, 1975.

Resort hotels have a history

Sonoma Mission Inn alive and well after 50 years

By ROBERT M. LYNCH

The grand dame of the Valley of the Moon's resort hotels, and still retaining its charm and dignity of yesteryear, is the Sonoma Mission Inn at Boyes Hot Springs.

The writer has a special affinity for "The Inn" having been employed there as a bellhop in the late 1930s -- a summertime job between spring and fall college semesters.

Of the several resort hotels serving the valley from the late 1800s and the "golden years" of the area's popularity as a vacation spot from the early 1900s until World War II, it is the only one still in operation.

Snugly placed, almost hidden from view of motorists, the Inn occupies a 6½-acre site in the heart of the Boyes Hot Springs. The entrances -- one on the highway (Route 12), the other via Boyes boulevard -- take guests on a circular path through the attractively landscaped gardens with tall trees, shrubs and green lawns.

Opposite the hotel entrance which features five graceful arches, a fountain, installed when the hotel was completed in 1928, still flows. Fortunately, in

Please turn to Page 22

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Sonoma Mission Inn alive and well after 50 years

Continued from Page 21

these days of a continuing drought, the Mission Inn has its own wells.

THE ORIGINAL owner was a Mr. Partridge, a San Francisco attorney who headed Sonoma Properties Company, the corporation which built the two-story, 100-room hotel. Construction began in 1926 of the handsome structure which the owners proudly declared had "an acre and a quarter under the roof."

Rudy G. Lichtenberg, A. O. Stewart of the Golden Gate Ltd.; Harvey Speas and others were also instrumental in getting the new hotel established at Boyes.

A three-paneled, colored postal card distributed in 1928 calls the Mission Inn "Hacienda de las Flores," (Residence of the Flowers). Also shown is the entranceway to the golf course, built by the late Alma Spreckels, and the front of the

MRS. V. LAUDEL PRATT is the charming hostess and owner of the Sonoma Mission Inn today.

Boyes Hot Springs Bath House then operated by Rudy Lichtenberg. The Sonoma Mission Inn undoubtedly had a "package" deal they could offer guests which included use of the 18-hole championship Sonoma Golf Course and the bath house with its huge indoor mineral swimming pool and tub baths.

The big, modern hostelry in Jack London's scenic Valley of the Moon attracted an elite and upper middle class clientele from the start. Most of them came from San Francisco and the Bay Area, taking the ferry boat to Marin County and coming here either by automobile or train.

These were the days before super highways, the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges when the distance to travel for a weekend stay or vacation was an important factor.

Patrons of the Inn, with its beautiful big lobby with hand-hewn beam ceilings, tile floors and wrought-iron fixtures, likened it to Yosemite's Awahnee and the Benbow Inn at Garberville. It was off to a great start.

But no one had reckoned with the so-called "depression" years which marked the early 1930s and the resort hotel business, like so many other businesses went into a deep decline. Soon the new, 100-room Mission Inn was in the hands of the receivers.

AFTER A PERIOD of being virtually shut down, the property was purchased in 1933 "for a song" by an enterprising and successful hotel operator named Emily Long. Mrs. Long was the popular proprietor of the Bret Harte Inn in the Grass Valley-Nevada City area.

She had a lot of contacts and had a knack for attracting business groups and corporations who sought convention or seminar locations away from the Bay Area. Mrs. Long weathered the depression's height and subsequently attracted a steady trade, a large swimming pool she added to the hotel grounds being a popular feature.

Mrs. Long operated the Sonoma Mission Inn with singular success until World War II when the resort hotel business again suffered a setback. But she more than "landed on her feet," leasing the spa to the U.S. government for an R&R (rest and recreation) center for service personnel from the war zones.

After the war, in July, 1945,

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THE SONOMA MISSION INN AS PORTRAYED IN A 1928 ADVERTISING BROCHURE

Sonoma Mission Inn--alive and well after 50 years

Continued from Page 22

the Inn was purchased by a partnership composed of George T. Thompson, Jos. D. Sullivan and Edward B. DeGolia, all of San Francisco. Mr. Thompson was a part owner and manager of the Sir Francis Drake hotel, DeGolia owned an interest in that hotel and Sullivan was manager of the San Francisco Hotel Association.

A year or so later, Thompson and his wife, the former "V" Laudel, bought them out. Mr. Thompson didn't believe in having his wife work, and assumed complete operation of the Inn, but did accompany her to the many shows in which she participated with their stable of Arabian horses.

IN THE LATE 1950s, the resort hotel business began to wane again. There was a recession and the Bay Area people who comprised the Inn's patrons over the years were going greater distances to vacation -- to Tahoe, Nevada, Southern California and Hawaii.

About the same time Mr. Thompson became ill and his wife was forced to take over the operation. She somehow managed to hold things together. The off-season was aided by the appearance of professional football teams who made the Mission Inn their headquarters prior to games with the San Francisco 49'ers. The Chicago Bears under George Halas came to the Inn 10 years in a row. Other pro teams using the Inn included the Washington Redskins, Baltimore Colts and Los Angeles Rams.

After Mr. Thompson died in 1963, his widow continued to operate the hotel, innovating to make it pay. This included the taking in of a few permanent residents, seniors who liked the homey atmosphere of the Inn. Some of these retired people were quite prominent and included a top aide to General Douglas MacArthur and a famed concert singer.

With the demand growing for more transient rooms and general accommodations for travelers, the permanent, retired-type resident is now being phased out.

A year after Mr. Thompson's death, his widow married Dr. Robertson Pratt, a professor at the U. C. Medical Center. He assisted her at the hotel until his death in April of 1976.

MRS. PRATT is still the hard-working owner-manager today. She still enjoys people "pleasing them and giving them what they want." She has painted and refurbished every room. And business is good. Not only in the summer months but right through December.

"Guests seem to like the atmosphere -- the quietness and hospitality and feel of bygone days," Mrs. Pratt said. "They look on the Mission Inn as one of the grand old hotels."

She said guests come from "all over," and that the Mission Inn is becoming a popular spot for seminars and business meetings of from one to five days' duration. NASA, Dow Chemical, United Airlines and the Department of Forestry are among those who have utilized the Inn on a continuing basis.

The big dining room, seating up to 350 persons, is a popular spot for banquets and dances. Hotel patrons are served breakfast and dinner, walk-in trade not being encouraged.

Single rooms start at $16, with $26 being tops -- European plan.

To this writer and ex-bellhop, the Sonoma Mission Inn is truly still one of "the grand old resort hotels" of California.

DESTROYED BY FIRE around 1906, this hotel at Boyes Hot Springs was the predecessor of the Sonoma Mission Inn.

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A walk around Sonoma Plaza in the early days

Wauna Wendy Ed

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By TRISSA O'CALLAGHAN

On a quiet morning in Sonoma's Plaza it is possible to recall other days when the town moved at a slower pace, and there were horses and buggies parked in front of stores instead of cars.

A walk around the Plaza in earlier days would start with the Clewe Grocery store at the corner of Broadway and Napa st., now home of Great Western Savings and Loan. Later the property housed a garage, but it was during the Clewe days that the first telephone in town was installed at the site.

To the west a butcher shop and a liquor store, along with another shop, were located in a long, low building by the 1930s, where Plaza Liquor and part of the Bank of America now stand.

On the corner was a real estate office, and in between was the old Union Hotel.

The Union Hotel, according to Reuben Woodworth, long time Sonoman and archivist for the Sonoma Valley Historical Society, was a major activity center and also provided housing for travelers.

The Hotel had two "sample rooms," where traveling salesmen could display their goods for local merchants. There was also a big hall where dances, plays and parties were held, and Woodworth even remembers seeing movies in the hall, back when projectors were run by hand.

Bartender for many years at the Union Hotel was John Steiner, father of the current owner of Steiner's bar on First st. West on the Plaza.

THE HOTEL was razed in 1956, to be replaced by the Bank of America.

The Western Farm Center building, formerly Napa Milling, stands much as it has for many years, Woodworth notes. Once a livery stable and blacksmith's shop, the building became a garage when the horseless carriage became popular, but later reverted to its present use as a feed store.

Farther west on Napa street, when the Index-Tribune building was a delicatessen and a grocery store, it was adjoined by the Palace Hotel and Grill, owned by the Liedeckers. In its place today is the Chevron service station.

Back on the Plaza, women's wear shops, jewelers, income tax accountants and a livery stable found homes on First st. west at one time or another. Eraldi's store was the site of an early blacksmith shop, and the current Hy-Lond office was a bank building for many years. Farther down the block in the Batto building, the first telephone office was housed. Earlier a bank was located here.

According to Woodworth's memory, Dan Ruggles' music store was originally a residence, and when Dan's father came to Sonoma he changed the home into a business.

THE ADOBE that's now

Please turn to Page 25

CLEWE'S STORE IN 1936
It was erected in 1882.

THE DEPOT MUSEUM

In this newspaper you have been following the progress of the dedicated Museum Committee of the Sonoma Valley Historical Society which plans to rebuild the burned 1881 Northwestern Pacific depot in Sonoma as a museum.

You know that the committee has collected $30,000 through contributions of civic-minded people like yourself all over Sonoma Valley and beyond. That this was matched by $20,000 from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors. And that this $50,000 in turn matched the $50,000 contributed by the City of Sonoma from insurance monies.

Construction of the depot museum is assured. Historic objects of great beauty and significance are stored temporarily to fill the museum when it is completed. Your grandchildren and their grandchildren will be enriched by this collection of Sonoma Valley memories.

Now the committee is engaged in Phase Two for interior things like carpets, display cabinets, spotlighting and a burglar alarm. The goal is $15,000. Already $5000 has been raised. You can be a part of this Valley-wide project by a personal contribution of $5, $10, or whatever sum you wish. Send your check to S.V.H.S. Museum Fund, Box 861, Sonoma, CA. 95476.

Sonoma is the birthplace of California. A museum symbolizing and displaying our colorful heritage is a must. You can participate.

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A walk around Sonoma Plaza in the early days

Continued from Page 24

home for Landmark Clothes, the Garden Gate and Sonoma Plaza Realty at one time provided living quarters upstairs with a winery downstairs. (Later, the upstairs was turned into a hall where the Hermann Sons, a German club, would meet.)

The Presbyterian College students once studied where diners now sit at El Dorado restaurant, and a tailor's shop once occupied the Lourdeaux office.

The Old Sonoma Hotel, located on Spain st. near the Plaza, was known to the old old timers as the site of Weyl Hall, where the Sonoma band practiced its music. Among later names for the building were the Country Inn and the Waywith Inn.

The Barracks, the building at First east and Spain st. is an original adobe. At one time there was a Chinese laundry in the building. Later it was a general store and after that was a residence and office building.

Earlier, Spain st. opposite the Plaza housed a blacksmith shop and wagon shop. When the trains came to Sonoma, the end of the line for a while, the Swiss Hotel served as a passenger and freight depot, with the train stopping right in front.

That was also in the days when the turntable for the train was in the Plaza, when there was a picket fence surrounding what is now the North portion of the Plaza.

City Hall was in a wooden building in the Plaza in the latter part of the 19th century.

Back in those days, of course, the Toscano Hotel was used for just that purpose and the Barracks building was a general store owned by merchant Solomon Schocken. The building later had a wooden facade with columns and a peaked entryway complete with gingerbread detail. It remained a business building until the 1960s.

Across the street, the mission, damaged in 1906, was for a time concealed by a saloon built on the corner.

ANOTHER OF THE original adobes in the Plaza was located where Old Sonoma Creamery, formerly Vella's Ice Cream is located. At one time Vallejo's soldiers played billiards there. The Vella brothers had a creamery there years ago and then it became a restaurant and soda fountain under Rocco Benedetto. Today it is a delicatessen.

The stone building to the south -- which now contains several shops, was at one time the wine cellar for August Pinelli's father. The son now is co-owner of Mission Hardware which stands at the corner of First st. east and Napa st.

When the famous fire of 1911 occurred, it gutted most of the winery building, along with destroying most of the buildings in the vicinity.

The stone structure was able to be saved with the rest of the building being reconstructed. It was in the 1911 fire that many of the original buildings on First st. east were destroyed.

Residences of several persons, including the prominent Otto Von Geldern were destroyed, as was the original Old Sonoma House and the Poppe building, which also included the general store run by Mrs. Poppe, the grandmother of Sonoma resident Emily Grinstead.

Back in those days, there was a windmill and water tank in the back of each of the buildings, but the story goes that at one point in fighting the fire, some of Mr. Pinelli's wine had to be used to help squelch the blaze.

In that block was the Garibaldi Hotel, now the site of Food City. There was also a lumber yard on the block, and the old Duhring store which is now Mission Hardware.

DURING THE passage of time, the small bakery that still stands became the Sonoma French Bakery, and the theatre named for Samuele Sebastiani was built by the vintner in 1933. The Food City building was also built by Sebastiani, and originally housed a roller-skating rink in the 1940s.

The hardware store building was once an adobe, until 1981, when the building was "remodeled," and the present structure built. Eventually, the building was divided into two stores, one of which is now Brundage's.

The building which now houses the Capri restaurant was also at one time the local post office, somewhere around 1908, and the block also contained a livery stable.

The huge building also housed the offices of a married couple who were both doctors, and below them the first floor held the Newton Dal Pogetto barber

Please turn to Page 26

SONOMA PLAZA IN THE 1880s
City Hall in foreground, then as now, it was Our Town.

THE EL DORADO HOTEL
Adobe was then covered with shingles.

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A walk around Sonoma Plaza in the early days

Continued from Page 25

shop. The original barbershop was owned by the grandfather of Newton Dal Poggetto, the local lawyer.

Also in the building was a general store, located in about the spot that Petersen electric now has business.

Hotz' Store was preceded by the Pioneer Saloon, a beer garden type establishment, with the Miller and Pauli store to the west. The store still stands at its original location and is the L. S. Simmons Pharmacy.

The Saloon had originally been located on Spain st., and after moving to Napa st. was converted to a two story building and moved back to Spain st. where it now stands as a residence at 256 Spain st.

WHEN THE building was moved, the store was built for Hotz, who had previously done business in a shop down the street.

The rest of the block contained ice cream and candy stores, a building that became the unofficial headquarters for the bus lines, since as the first building in town to hold a refrigerator, it had "the market" on cold soft drinks. There was also a jewelry store, perhaps the forerunner of the present Vineyard Jewelers. Lutgen's candy store was also located on the block, as was an early newspaper office.

The building that houses Glendale Federal savings is among the modern pioneers of the Plaza, having been erected as a bank in the latter part of the 19th century. Later it was a real estate office that existed in that location until last year.

EARLY SONOMA BANK
But no drive-in window.

RARE SNOWSTORM IN SONOMA
The date, Jan. 6, 1907.

Wine boom in the 1880s

Sonoma County's recent burst of growth in new wineries doesn't begin to compare to what happened nearly one hundred years ago, in the ten year period from 1880 to 1890.

At the beginning of this period a reporter for The Sonoma Index-Tribune counted 37 wineries in Sonoma Valley. Santa Rosa-Healdsburg had another dozen for a total of about 50.

Exactly 10 years later, the Board of Viticultural Commissioners of the state took their own survey and this time the county's wine making establishments numbered 119.

There has not been another period of similar growth like the 1880s in California viticulture despite all the recent excitement and flurry of interest in wine.

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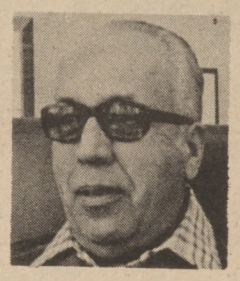
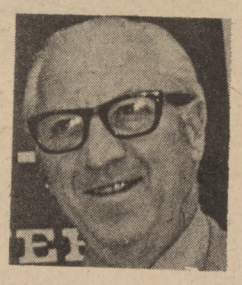


DICK BOND



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THIS RARE old photograph was taken in the late 1800s at the basalt quarry owned and operated by the late Solomon Schocken, after whom Schocken's hill just north of the city is named. Many of the blocks from this quarry paved the streets of San Francisco following the earthquake and fire of 1906.

Schocken Hill--ghosts of Italian stonecutters

By BILL LYNCH

Schocken Hill rises 658 feet above the town of Sonoma, but when I was a boy of eight and nine, it was much higher, a towering, extinct volcano rising to the clouds with mysterious grottos and a bottomless pit at its top.

On its lower southwest slopes are the graves of my great grandfather (founder of this newspaper) and thousands of other Sonomans, now resting in Mountain Cemetary.

Slag piles and falls of giant boulders ring the approach to the top. An old spring, which once supplied water for the stone cutters, still produces ice cold water from the mountain's interior.

At the top is "the quarry", one of probably hundreds in the Bay Area, dug to provide cobblestones for the streets and blocks for the buildings of San Francisco in the 1800s.

The quarry seemed huge and very nearly dug through to China. But, its gotten a lot shallower since I've grown up. It's probably about 30 to 40 feet deep and about 50 yards wide now.

THE hill was named after Solomon Schocken, who came to Sonoma in 1873 and purchased 62 acres or so around the hill in about 1880.

He and Augustino Pinelli (father of August Pinelli, present proprietor of Mission Hardware in Sonoma) opened the quarry operation in the early 1880s.

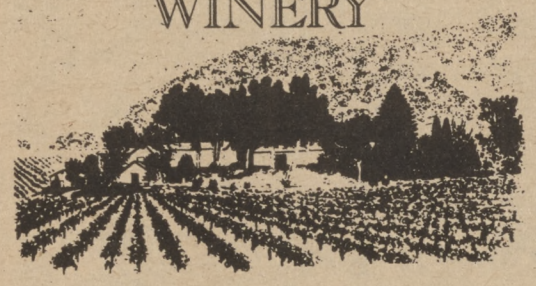
"My father was a production man. He knew how to get things done," says Pinelli.

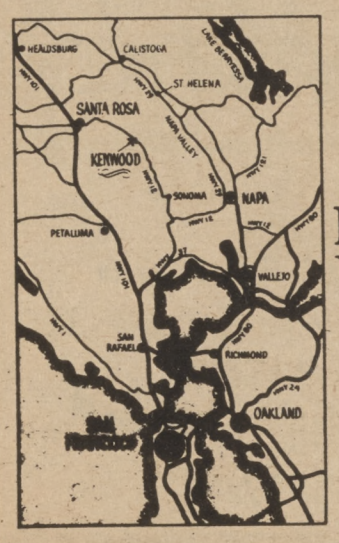
He first mined stone on General Vallejo's property west of Schocken's Hill. He paid the general $12 per thousand stones as a fee for using his property.

He sold the stones to John

Please turn to Page 28

KENWOOD
WINERY





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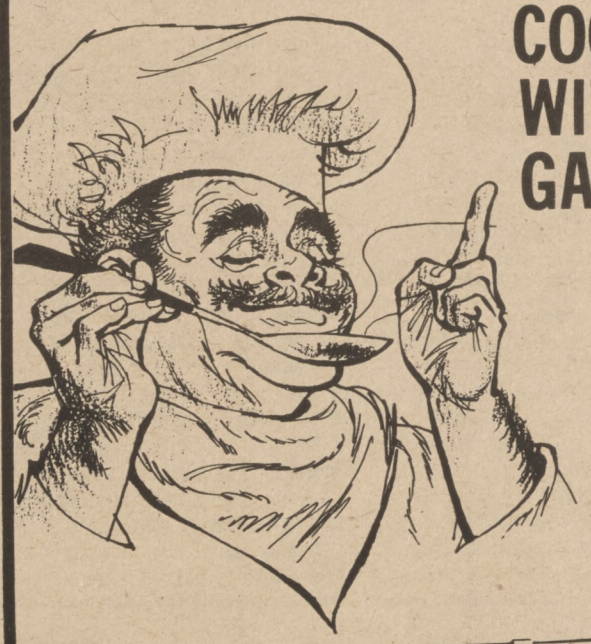

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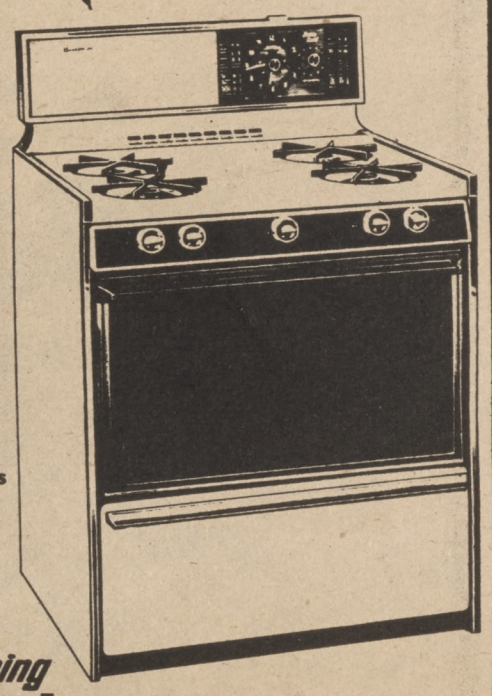

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Schocken Hill--ghosts of Italian stonecutters

Continued from Page 27

Cassaretto, a stone contractor in San Francisco.

THE BASALT (as this particular stone of volcanic origin is called) was harder and the quarry potential better on Schocken's property, so the two combined forces to supply Cassaretto with as much stone as they could.

Pinelli got a crew of Italian stonecutters together and from about 1880 to 1906 the quarry stone from Schocken's hill was brought down the steep winding trail by horse-drawn wagon to the schooners at the Embarcadero on Sonoma Creek, and later to a train station build in the plaza.

One of those wagon drivers was Sam Sebastiani, founder of the family wine business that has propsered here ever since.

The basalt business had its ups and downs throughout the 26 years it existed on Schocken Hill. One report in an 1897 issue of the Sonoma Index-Tribune reported that ". . . One hundred fifty thousand blocks of basalt were sold to San Francisco parties one day this week."

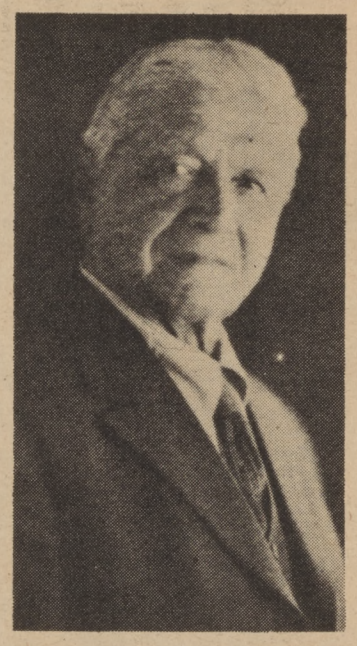
At one time the industry gave employment to over 300 men here. Some of the workers occupied cabins up on the hillside, and their lights could be seen from the town in the evening.

THERE ARE no lights on Schocken Hill today. But there still might be a few ghosts of Italian stonecutters wandering around, the kind we used to hear rustling the leaves back when the quarry was deeper.

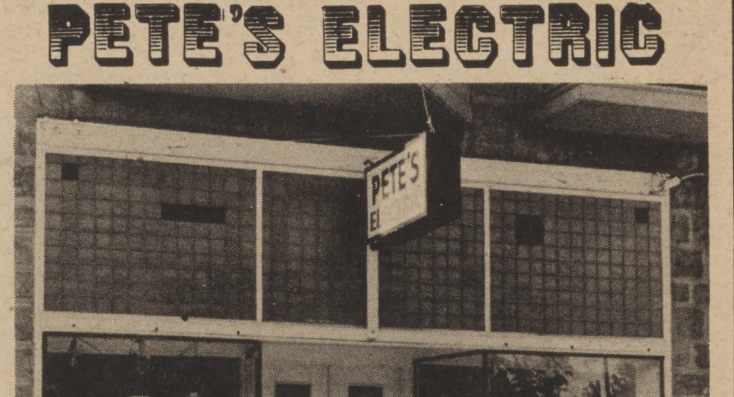
The hill is now owned by Peter Haywood, a Marin County land developer, who has planted vineyards on its northern slope. He has no plans for the side of the hill facing Sonoma. He wants to keep it open, free of development for everybody to enjoy.

The City of Sonoma would like to buy it for open space and a nature park.

I'm happy Mr. Haywood and the city feel that way. I've got a little boy who's only four months old and one day I'm going to take him for a hike up that towering extinct volcano with mysterious grottos and a bottomless pit at the top that goes all the way to China.



AUGUSTINO PINELLI



The stone building above was built in the 1800s by Augustino Pinelli from quarry stone mined in the hills above Sonoma. The building still stands today near the corner of First st. east and Spain st. Pinelli was the father of August Pinelli, proprietor of Mission Hardware in Sonoma.

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Bear Flag monument was dedicated in 1914

By JERRY PARKER

The city of Sonoma had a spectacular two-day civic program -- mostly arranged by Sonoma Parlor 111, Native Sons of the Golden West -- when the Bear Flag monument, one of our most cherished landmarks, was dedicated in the Plaza in June, 1914. It was the 68th anniversary of the raising of the Bear Flag.

Located in the northeast corner of the Plaza, the bronze statue of a Sonoma pioneer with, presumably, a Bear Flag billowing out behind him, was unveiled on Sunday, June 14 by Governor Hiram L. Johnson.

This marked the climax of a two-day extravaganza which also included two parades, trotting races, a grand ball at the Union Hall and a gaudy fireworks display.

The occasion celebrated the success of a two-phase program sparked by the local Native Sons. In addition to getting the Bear Flag statue (made possible by a $5,000 grant from the Legislature), they got approval from the state for restoration of the old Sonoma Mission, long crumbling into the ground from neglect and earthquake damage.

THE DEDICATION program was inaugurated on Saturday, June 13, with a parade that included many floats and decorated cars.

There were trotting horse races in the afternoon at the Sonoma Race Track. Popular Deputy Sheriff Joe Ryan won three of the races.

According to Sonoma historian Reuben Woodworth, the track was located on First st. west, just south of what is now Andrieux st.

It was an oval track with a bleachers in the middle.

The hit of the ball in the evening at the Union Hall was Queen California Florence Green. She was escorted by Louis H. Mooser, grand president of the NSGW.

Her attendants included Delina Marmori, Valeria Helberg, Marguerite Gehricke, Clara Peterson, Virginia Picetti and Zolita Bates.

The orchestra which played at the ball included Roy Pauli (who died just last October), Frank Knolle, Emmet Gottenberg, Claude Johnson, W. H. Bailey, Mrs. Ada Pauli, Roy's mother, and Fred Hansen.

THE FIREWORKS display Saturday night, which preceded the ball, must have been breathtaking. It included salute shells which exploded in the air and were heard for miles. There were spider bombshells which sent three immense golden spiders creeping across the sky.

There was a so-called battery display which filled the sky with myriads of diamond stars.

There were three mammoth

Please turn to Page 30

BEAR FLAG DAY IN SONOMA, 1896
Fiftieth anniversary of raising of Bear Flag.

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When the Bear Flag monument was dedicated

Continued from Page 29

cascades, emerald bombshells, chain rockets, searchlight rockets, parachute rockets, electric rockets and red, white and blue fountains of fire.

As if all this were not enough, there were two exhibition pieces, designs produced by fireworks. These included an outline of the Bear Flag and a replica, five by fifteen feet, of the Bear Flag monument itself.

After another big parade on Sunday, a military mass was celebrated in front of the Sonoma Mission.

Then came the unveiling of the monument. Five thousand spectators cheered as Governor Johnson severed the cords which held the Bear Flag draped around the statue created by sculptor John McQuarrie. The statue stands atop a huge red rock donated by Benjamin Marmori.

Then the Governor launched into his speech, delivered in the orotund oratorical style of that day.

"THE STURDY souls who raised this flag prefigured the destiny of California," said the Governor, "and they had the vision of the empire of pre-eminence which we now possess.

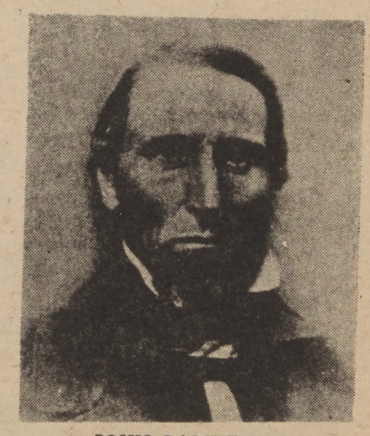
"To judge their action in the light of critical history is idle, for even we, with the advantages of the succeeding years, cannot begin to measure the scope of our opulence and advantages.

"We know that these men, our progenitors, saw ahead with far-seeing eyes and set for us an example in courage and initiative that must ever be our guiding impulse and inspiration."

Other speakers rang changes on this same theme. They included Jesse F. Prestwood, president of Sonoma Parlor; artist McQuarrie; Assemblyman Herbert W. Slater; Congressman Joseph R. Knowland; the NSGW past grand president Lewis F. Byington; and Sonoma Mayor William Von Hacht.

ANOTHER SPEAKER was Frederick T. Duhring, a merchant and past president of Sonoma Parlor. He told the story of how, when the first crude Bear Flag was run up on the spot, June 14, 1846, by the Americans who deposed General Vallejo, the Spanish wife of one of the members of the Bear Flag party tore a strip off her red petticoat to make a border for the flag.

Soloist Alfred H. Jansen sang "California Beside the Restless Sea" and a chorus sang "I Love You California," with the crowd undoubtedly joining in.



JOHN CAMERON

First mayor

After California became a state on September 9, 1850, Sonoma was classed as a city. Its first mayor was the Hon. John Cameron, who served a second term, and did honor to himself and the city by the capable manner in which he conducted the affairs of th new-old municipality.

A two-story adobe, which long stood on the west side of the plaza, was from 1850 to 1854 the Sonoma county courthouse and jail.

The bustling little town of Santa Rosa, an infant of three years, won, in a special election in the fall of 1854, the county seat away from Sonoma.

Wine production declined here following railroads, phylloxera

From shortly after the Civil War to 1885, Sonoma was the leading wine producing county in the state. Its decline thereafter can be traced to the damage caused by the phylloxera vine disease and the land speculation craze inspired by two railroads coming to Sonoma Valley.

The Sonoma Index-Tribune issue of July 16, 1887 covered this story in detail concluding that a new town was to be laid out at the northern terminus of the Sonoma Valley Railroad, "in the vicinity of the hot springs nearly opposite the McEwen vineyard." The town was to be Kenwood.

"Good Wine Is a Good Familiar Creature . . ."

Shakespeare

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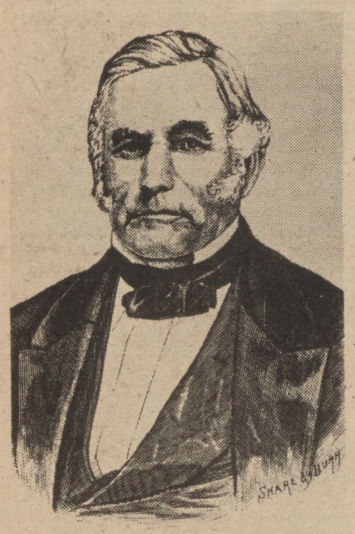
Southerners in early Sonoma

By
DONALD NELSON EDWARDS

Sonoma was a Southern stronghold between the 1830s and the Civil War. As trappers, soldiers, settlers, politicians and preachers, Southern-born Americans played a prominent role in Sonoma's early life.

George Yount and Kit Carson, trappers, were among the first Southerners in Sonoma County.



LILBURN BOGGS

Yount, a native of North Carolina, left both his name to Yountville in Napa County, and a new roof to Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo's Petaluma adobe when Vallejo asked Yount to shingle the roof with redwood.

Kit Carson, a Kentuckian, frequented Sonoma's army

NICK CARRIGER

barracks and Blue Wing Inn while serving as a guide for the American Army.

The Bear Flaggers and their short-lived republic included a number of Southerners, including Granville Swift, later a captain under John C. Fremont in the conquest of California.

Fremont, a Georgia-born Creole, headquartered in Sonoma during the summer of 1846 when Americans took control of California. Fremont's influence was enormous in establishing California as an American territory in the Mexican War and he was later a California senator.

General Persifer Smith came to California in 1849 to assume military command of the whole Pacific Coast. Although a native of New Jersey, Smith had spent most of his life in Louisiana, where he had become an attorney and judge and he was associated with slaveholding interests there.

From his Sonoma Army Headquarters, General Smith aided immigrants crossing the Sierras and sought a railroad connection from the Mississippi River to California.

THE SECTIONAL conflicts between North and South extended into California and Southerners made organized efforts to settle California. Under the encouragement of a Southern President, James K. Polk, 500 wagons of American settlers, many of them Missourians, reached California in 1846. A number of these pioneers came to Sonoma, including Lilburn Boggs and Nicholas Carriger.

Lilburn W. Boggs, ex-Governor of Missouri, had lobbied in Washington during the winter of 1845 to be appointed Governor of California and arrived in Sonoma in November of 1846.

Although Boggs did not become Governor, he was chosen alcalde of Sonoma and led the town through the difficult transition period from Mexican to American rule. Boggs also served as Sonoma's first postmaster and had a thriving store on the Sonoma plaza.

Three Carriger brothers, Nicholas, Solomon and Caleb, also came with the wagon trains of 1846, and spent the rest of their lives in the Sonoma Valley. Carriger Creek bears their name. Nick Carriger built Sonoma's first redwood house and was one of the early winemakers in the Sonoma Valley.

In 1850 Judge David O. Shattuck, a Louisiana judge and college president, settled in Sonoma. Shattuck had served as a judge in San Francisco's Vigilante days and in 1851 was selected president of Sonoma County's first Board of Supervisors.

LORENZO WAUGH, a Virginia-born teacher and missionary to the Shawnee Indians, had a vision while ill with malaria in which he believed God called him to go to the Pacific Coast.

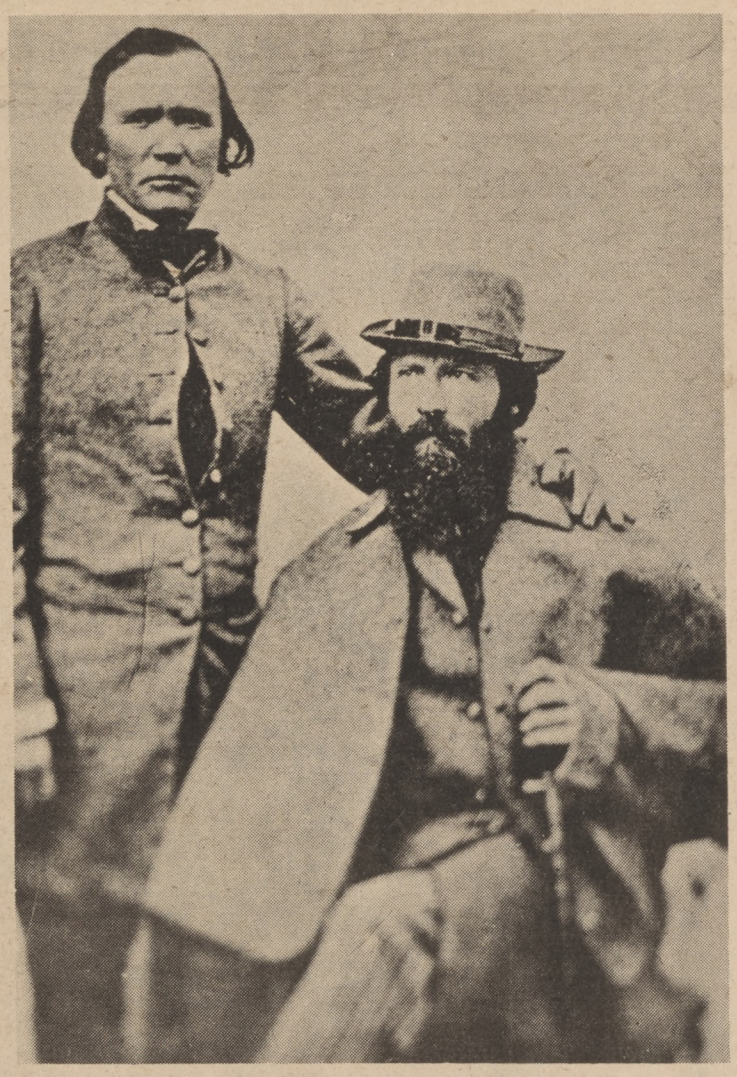
Years later the beautiful setting of his vision was matched when he camped one night near Petaluma. This Methodist circuit rider stayed to become a leading preacher in Sonoma. Sonoma's first Protestant church was erected in 1852 by Southern Methodists.

A soldier in Stevenson's Regiment, stationed in Sonoma in 1847, Alexander J. Cox remained to become Sonoma's first newspaper publisher and editor. Cox, a Charleston, South Carolina native, published the Sonoma Bulletin for several years in the early 1850s.

In 1849, with Alcalde Boggs and General Smith in power, Georgia's pro-slavery Senator T. Butler King appeared in Sonoma and announced to the citizens that then President Zachary Taylor had sent him to California to deliver the country from a military government into statehood.

Smith and the Georgia Senator left for the California gold fields to encourage miners to elect a state government favorable to President Taylor, another Southern president in the White House. But California was admitted to the Union as a free state.

EARLY HOMES in the Sonoma Valley showed a strong Southern influence. The Hood Mansion at the Los Guilicos Rnacho was built in Virginia Piedmont style. Glen Oaks (1860), Temelec Hall (1858) and the Nick Carriger home reflected the traditional plan of a Southern antebellum home with a central hall and stairway.



KIT CARSON AND JOHN C. FREMONT
(Photos courtesy of Robert D. Parmelee)

Temelec Hall, built by Granville Swift of Kentucky, was the scene of many of Sonoma's grand social events when it was owned by Col. William K. Rogers, also a

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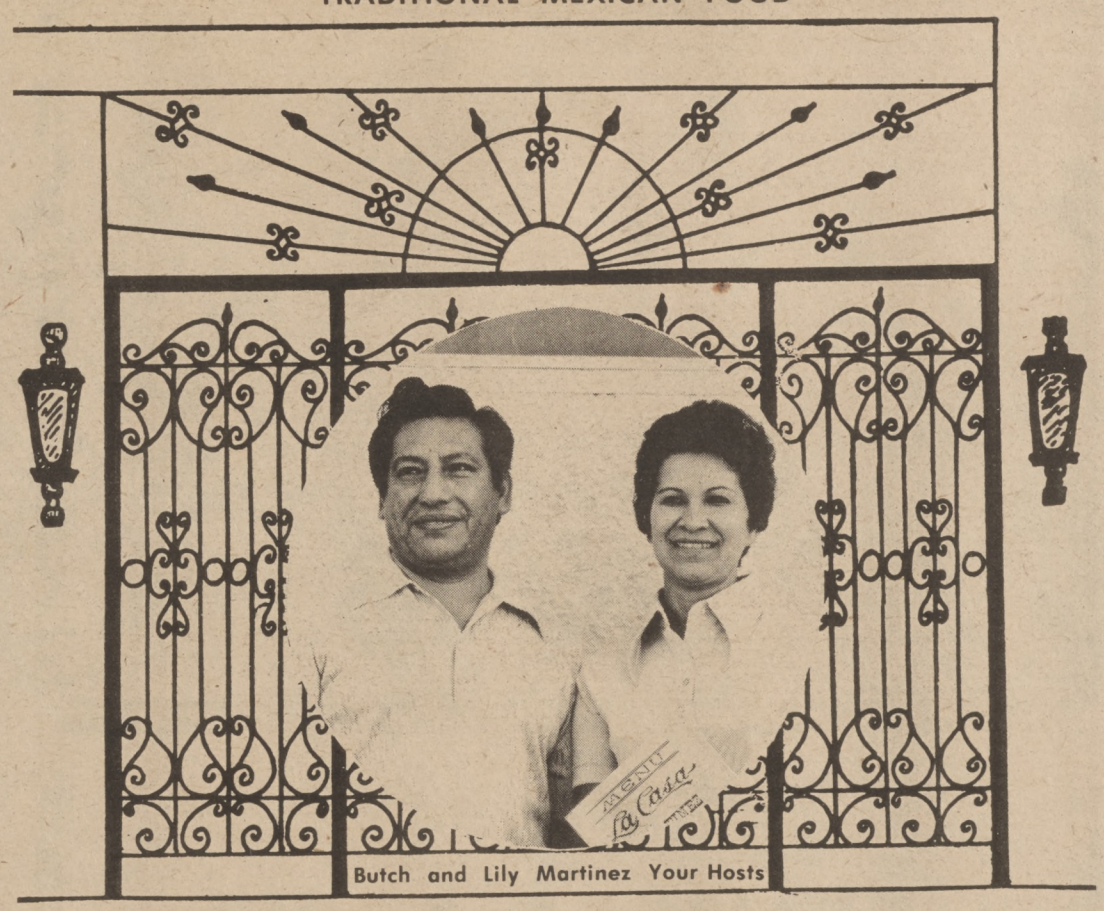

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Southerners in early Sonoma

Continued from Page 31

Southerner and one of Sonoma County's supervisors.

Sobre Vista Ranch, while owned by George F. Hooper, a Virginian and retired San Francisco banker, produced Tokay wines and brandy. Hooper's white wine and olive oil from Sobre Vista won many prizes.

Alcalde Lilburn Boggs built a two story home on the Sonoma plaza for $800 in 1849. General Persifer Smith occupied the Fitch adobe, when it was the military headquarters for California. Judge David Shattuck shipped in sections around the Horn a ten room house, and raised it on a ranch three miles south of Sonoma.

By the time of the Civil War, Southern influence in Sonoma began to wane, as many Southerners returned East or moved on to other areas of California.

LUISA VALLEJO EMPARAN, daughter of Sonoma's founder, General Mariano G. Vallejo, is shown at the Vallejo Home in the late 1930s when she was custodian of the state landmark. She was the mother of the late Raoul R. (Dal) Emparan, one of Sonoma's most beloved citizens who died here three years ago, while holding the honorary title of Alcalde of Sonoma.

SONOMA CITY HALL
Italian fountain in foreground.

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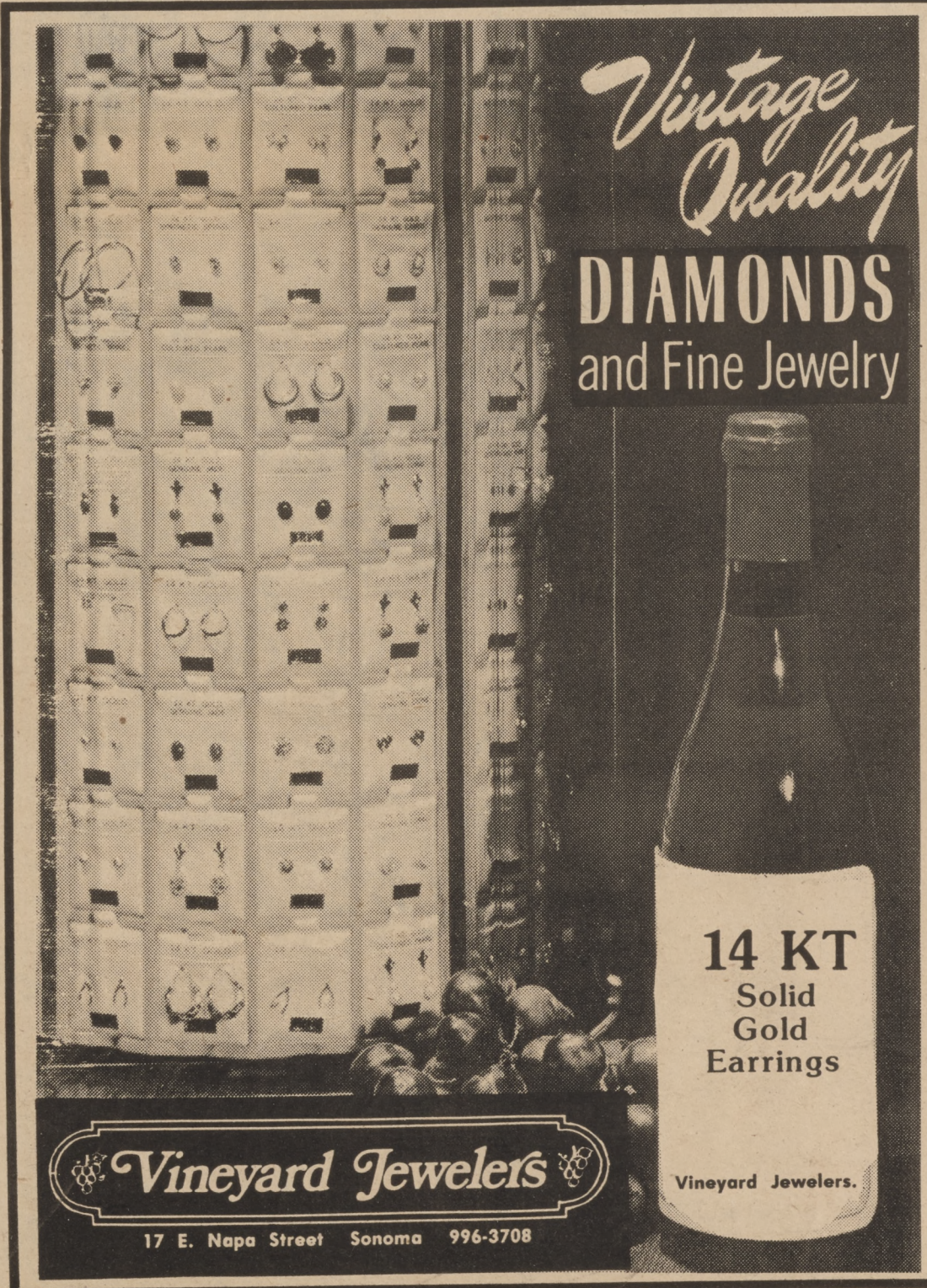

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Despite the drought, Sonoma Valley winemen predict some fine varietals

By JOHN LYNCH

Sonoma Valley and the rest of the North Coast wine growing region has experienced two consecutive drought-choked seasons.

Rainfall was far below normal during the winters of 1976 and 1977. The lack of soil moisture, vital in developing feeder roots so that the vines can obtain water and other nutrients from the ground, has had a noticeable effect on the grapes.

Tonnages have been below average. In many varietals, berry size has been smaller than normal. Dry farm vineyards have been particularly plagued with low grape yield. Those growers with access to irrigation have fared better, on the whole.

OTHER problems have menaced the already drought-stricken vineyards. Untimely hot weather and damp days earlier in the growing season caused some shatter (young berries drying up and falling off the vines) and mildew.

Erratic weather has created uneven ripening in many varietals. As a result, determining accurate sugar levels has been difficult.

Despite the problems, most grape growers and vintners feel overall that the crops are surviving relatively well. If you talk to any vineyardist, he'll inevitably remark, "Well, we've never had this happen before," referring to the unusually dry North Coast winters of late.

As the 1977 harvest got underway early this month, that sense of uncertainty prevailed. As one wine-maker put it, "It's just another normal, typical year in that we have no idea what's going to happen."

VINTNERS at each winery were asked which varietals, they felt, could turn out to be exceptional this 1977 season. Since the questions were posed early in the harvest, wine-makers were hesitant to give firm projections. "It's a little early," was always their first response.

Nevertheless, here are the "guesses" they gave:

SEBASTIANI VINEYARDS -- Chardonnay. "They came in at a very good sugar level and good total acidity," commented Don Sebastiani. "There's nice, round-shaped berries and beautiful bunches. He said that the Cabernet Sauvignon, although showing signs of a light yield, looks to be "very good," also.

BUENA VISTA WINERY -- Gewurztraminer. "Our Gewurztraminer grapes came to the crusher very sound, verey clean, with a top varietal character," said Rene Lacasia, technical director and winemaster. He feels it will make an excellent wine and will probably be bottled next spring.

CHATEAU ST. JEAN -- Sauvignon Blanc. "Very nice sugar and acid balance. In fact, it's the best I've seen in my wine-making experience," said general manager and winemaster Richard Arrowood.

GRAND CRU VINEYARDS -- Pinot Noir. "It looks very nice," said Bob Magnani, head wine-maker. "There's good acids and sugars. It's right where we want it."

HACIENDA WINE CELLARS -- Chardonnay. "It's always been our top bill," commented general manager Steve MacRostie. "That should hold true for 1977, as well. They're coming along right on schedule."

GUNDLACH-BUNDSCHU -- Pinot Noir. Wine-maker John Merritt explained, "I could say Zinfandel would be the best and it could rain romorrow. If everything proceeds normally, though, the reds, Pinot Noir in particular, will be very good."

HANZELL VINEYARDS -- Pinot Noir. "Of the two varietals we have, (Chardonnay and Pinot Noir) said general manager Bob Sessions, "my guess is Pinot Noir would be the better. There's good sugar, good color and reasonable acids. Plus, there's a pretty good juice yield, too."

ZD WINERY -- Pinot Noir. "The Pinot Noir from the Carneros region of the extreme south Napa Valley has been beautiful, exceptionally great, this year," stated part owner Norman deLeuze.

KENWOOD VINEYARDS -- Pinot Noir. "The first batches of Pinot Noir (from the Olive Hill and Shepard ranches of Glen Ellen) was exceptionally good," according to Mike Lee, general manager. "They've been coming in at over 24-sugar."

VALLEY OF THE MOON -- Zinfandel, French Colombard and Semillon. "They all look pretty good," exclaimed owner Harry Parducci.

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THE TOSCANO DINING ROOM

Toscano Hotel's history recalled from interviews with Mrs. Walton

By SHIRLEY DeBRUYCKER

(Mrs. DeBruycker, a longtime resident of Sonoma, is a docent at the Toscano Hotel. The following article is based on interviews she conducted with Mrs. Amelia Walton, who died in January of 1976.)

During the number of times I interviewed Mrs. Amelia Walton, many charming bits of nostalgia came about as a result of these talks. Mrs. Walton, had spent her entire life right on this corner of Sonoma. When she sold the hotel to the State, she wanted them to buy the furnishings also but they told her they had no intention or money for the renovation of the hotel, but if any restoring was done they would probably tear down the building and reconstruct the Casa Grande.

She sold some of the furnishings to antique dealers, some she gave to friends, and some just disappeared. The only furniture original in the hotel are the little organ in the ladies' parlor, and the baby's cradle in the upstairs center bedroom and the mirror over the bar.

The name "Toscano" means man from Tuscany, a province in Italy from which her father emigrated. He came to America as a young man, and worked on the railroads, once going into British Columbia. He came to California to work on the Northwestern Railroad which brought him to Sonoma. Mr. Ciucci's name "Settimo" means seven in Italian, he was the seventh child in his family.

MRS. WALTON didn't remember when it was anything but a hotel, but she did remember her mother telling about Leiding's store, and as long as she remembered the Toscano was a workingman's hotel - never an elegant hotel. Although the League has restored it more or less as an "elegant hotel" of the 1880's, this was done only because these furnishings were available to them, and they had to work with what they had. It is a good example of what a small elegant hotel may have looked like, but the Toscano was never that.

In addition to being a workingman's hotel, it was also a small summer resort, but too far removed from the actual springs area to be classified as a more elegant resort. Simple in its furnishings, the stress was on good, clean beds, and later for its genial host, Jack Walton, and his famous Old Fashioneds. They had a steady clientele of summer people who came back year after year and brought their families.

The upstairs rooms were divided into smaller rooms (that is the reason for the two doorways in each of the large bedrooms) and this made seven bedrooms to rent out upstairs. These were rented mostly by men working in the quarries, vineyards and on the railroads.

It wasn't until 1900 that they had rooms to rent to the tourists as well. It was then that the building that is the Park Headquarters now, was purchased by her father. This building sat out on the street in front of the Indian Kitchen or Servants Quarters next to what is now the Viviani Cheese Company.

After purchasing this building, Mrs. Walton's father moved it to its present location. He hired workmen who - at his direction - built a scaffolding around it and raised it up in the air to put another story underneath it. In 1902, Mrs. Walton's father built what is now the kitchen wing, which has never been restored. It is located behind the hotel, and contains a huge restaurant kitchen, large dormitory style dining room and six bedrooms upstairs, which were usually rented to working men.

The little square building at the back of the property once had two large beds, most attractive to youngsters who wanted to stay there away from the watchful eyes of their parents. The rooms in the main building were not rented out much after 1900, as the rooms were kept for Mr. and Mrs. Ciucci, Mrs. Ciucci's mother,

Please turn to Page 36

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Toscano Hotel's history recalled

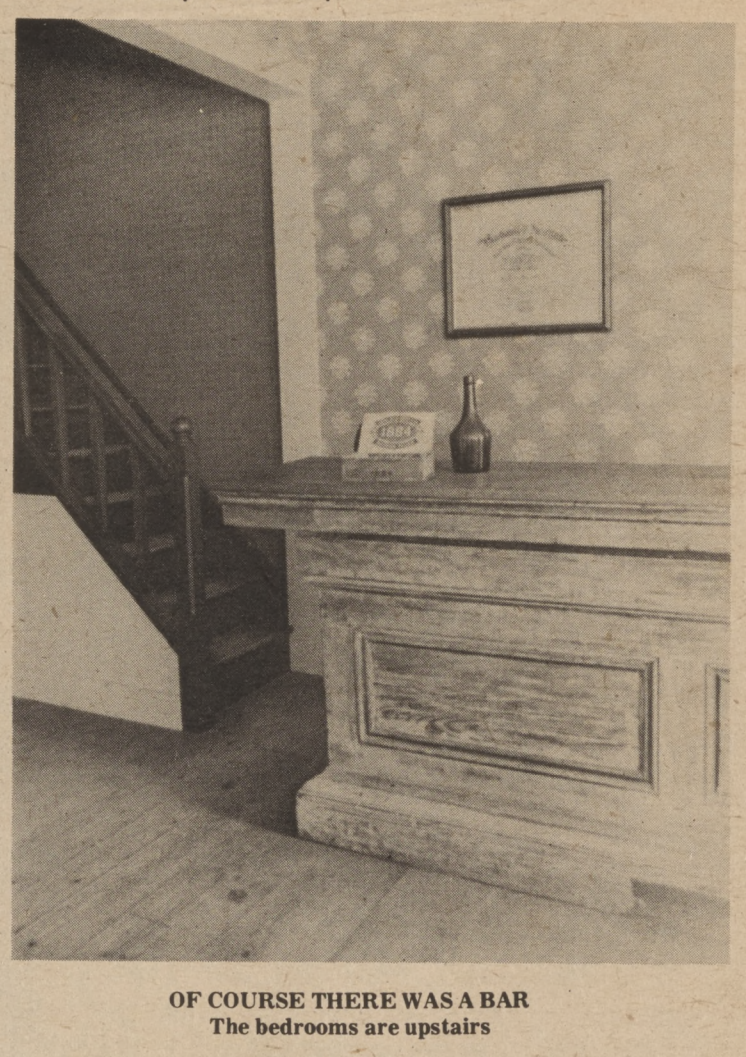
Continued from Page 35

Mrs Martinoni, and later for Mr. and Mrs. Walton, and for the young ladies who worked for them in the hotel.

WHEN MRS. Walton was asked about bathing facilities, she said in the summer they went to Boyes Springs for the hot baths two or three times a week. In the winter they used a galvanized tub in front of the kitchen stove. She didn't remember that the working men bathed very often.

When she and Mr. Walton were married in 1914, he had indoor plumbing put in the little room upstairs that is now decorated as a bathroom. When the State restored the building, pipes and facilities were removed as they were not original with the house.

The hotel was run like one big family operation, with the buildings forming a sort of compound. Tables were set up in the yard in the summer, protected by a huge awning to keep the bugs and dirt from the food. There as a huge pine tree for shade, fruit trees, vines growing on an arbor. They grew their own vegetables, raised chickens and eggs, raised their own pork, smoking hams in the smokehouse behind the Indian kitchen.



OF COURSE THERE WAS A BAR
The bedrooms are upstairs

There was a cow, and horses to pull the wagon out to the Springs. Mrs. Walton would pack a lunch and guests were driven out to the Springs area for the day and drive home at night, all for the cost of a dollar a day. If you had a single meal the cost was 25 cents. Ravioli and chicken was a regular Sunday menu.

Mrs. Walton remembered that sometimes the guests would pitch in and help with the dishes and other work so the whole group could go out to the Springs together. Most of these guests came back year after year and were like "Kissin' cousins".

When Mrs. Walton was a little girl, the stores to go to were Schocken's or Hotz'. Schocken's was next door to Toscano, and Mr. Schocken stored hay in the Mission which had fallen into great disrepair.

Mrs. Walton remembers Mrs. Hotz trimming ladies' hats at Hotz's store -- she could match any color that you brought her. Upon looking in one of the old ledgers that Mr. Hotz kept, I found an entry reading: "S. Ciucci 15 yards of red, white and blue bunting."

Mrs. Walton said that probably would have been for the Fourth of July celbration as the date was July 3, 1895. She remembers that everyone on the Plaza decorated their balconies for July Fourth celebrations which were great events: rodeos, parades, picnics, and always a trip to the Hot Springs.

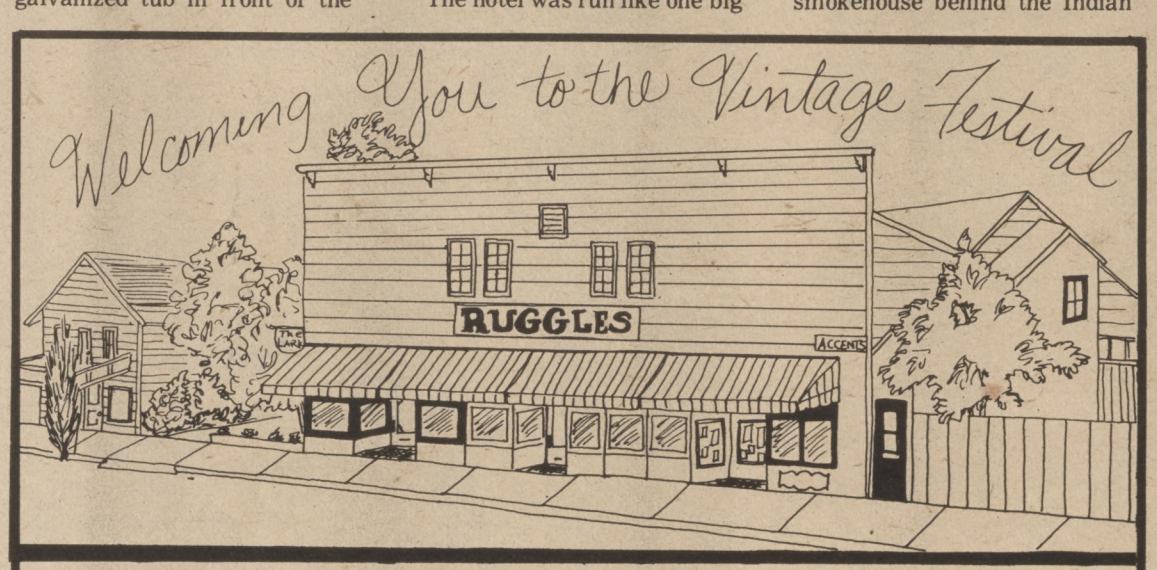
MRS. WALTON had a vivid memory that her father thought the wine made at the Rhine Farm southeast of Sonoma was very superior, and she remembers going to the Rhine Farm where the Gundlach-Bundschu winery was located to get wine for the hotel.

After the earthquake in 1906 they no longer made wine at the Rhine Farm and the winemaker, Mr. Charles Bundschu, went to Napa Valley to the Inglenook Winery to work in the wine cellars. For a time, Mrs. Walton's father insisted that they travel to Napa Valley for the wine they used at the hotel.

Among Mrs. Walton's memories are the train trips to San Francisco. They would take the train in Sonoma about 6:30 a.m., go to Tiburon, take the ferry to San Francisco, then board a trolley out to the Mission District where the wholesale houses were located. They made their purchases for the hotel, mostly linens, glassware and dishes, and then reversed the procedure of trolley, ferry and train, arriving home about 7:30 in the evening.

She remembers the trip as a

Please turn to Page 37



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THE TOSCANO PARLOR

Toscano Hotel's history

Continued from Page 36

big family outing, as everyone on the train knew each other, and there was much visiting back and forth. Sometimes when they were going to San Francisco, Jack London would be on the train, but he didn't join in the visiting.

Mrs. Walton's family were great people for keeping records and pictures and were very interested in history. They kept them all stored in the little closet where the League records are now kept, but one wet winter the roof leaked and they were all spoiled. They were not found until they had mildewed and all had to be destroyed.

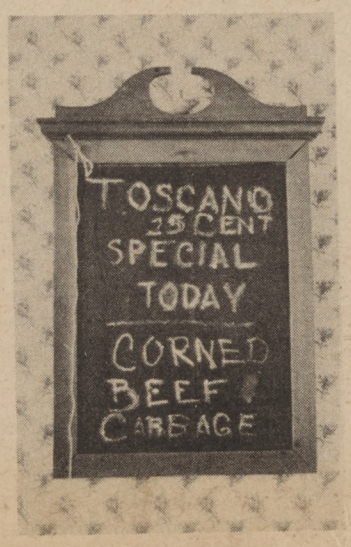
She said that her father and Jack would stand for hours in the barroom visiting with all the oldtimers around Sonoma, and she wished she had Jack's memory for relating some of the tales the old folks told. But at the time, she was so busy in the kitchen and rooms that she didn't even have time to listen.

THE BAR now in use in the hotel is not the original bar, it is believed that bar to be the one stored out behind the Indian kitchen. It is somewhat rotting away, but very much like the original. The bar that was so famous when Jack was selling his famous Old Fashioneds was given to the late Mr. James Norrbom who lived in Glen Ellen but no one I have talked with seems to have any ideas where that bar is now.

After Mr. Walton's death in 1955, Mrs. Walton found it was too demanding to carry on alone and started dismantling the hotel. It was the end of a truly pioneer hotel. I quote from Mrs. Honoria Tuomey's book "The History of Sonoma County" volume 2, page 83: "It is a matter of common knowledge that the frame section of the older part of this hotel is one of the oldest frame structures put up in Sonoma."

One of the most interesting facts uncovered by me in my research on the Toscano is the important part the Italian-American played in the rebuilding of the Sonoma Plaza area. The Plaza had almost disintegrated to the point of no return when the influx of Italian immigrants coming to work in the vineyards, on the railroads, and in the quarries, gave it the spurt of prosperity it needed.

The buildings around the Plaza had fallen into great



TOSCANO MENU

disrepair and the town was about deserted. The barracks had closed, the military had gone, and the town was a sleepy Pueblo. The small hotels and restaurants with flavor of the Old Country sprouted up around the square and reawakened a pride of community and home.

General Vallejo area's first senator

General M. G. Vallejo, Sonoma's founder, was the Sonoma district's first representative in the first State Senate. In 1850, while in the Senate, he proposed to grant land at the city of Vallejo for the purpose of public buildings. The proposition was accepted and Vallejo erected there a state house and several buildings.

Two sessions of the legislature were held there, but for various reasons the location of the state capital was changed from Vallejo to Sacramento, and the generous spirited Vallejo found himself a loser by the venture to the amount of many thousands of dollars.

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When Sonoma Valley was 'Indian country'

By MARIAN BRITTON

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Britton has been assisting with the Indian research project that is part of the Barracks restoration in Sonoma. A historian for many years, she formerly owned an art gallery specializing in American Indian art in San Francisco and also had her own radio public service program at one time.)

Sonoma Valley was "Indian Country" when young Colonel Mariano Vallejo was escorted into the territory to establish the Pueblo of Sonoma; escorted by the great leader of the Suisunes, Chief Semyeto "the strength of the terrible arm".

Colonel Vallejo reported later that the valley was covered with Indian villages, or rancherias, -- there were thousands of Indians living in and around Sonoma.

Each rancheria had its own natural boundaries and its own bubbling spring of "sweet water". The people were of the Miwok, or Moquelumne family, and some villages were under the leadership of the famous Chief Marin of the Licatuit, the rancheria located near Petaluma.

Each rancheria or village had its own tribal name and was known by that name. Near the present day Plaza the village of the Hutchica people was situated, called Hotchi.

Before the Miwok lived in this rocky valley of Sonoma, it is said the Yanah people had villages here. The famous Ishi about whom so many books have been written, the "last of the stone age people", was of the Yahi, a sub-tribe of the Yanah.

A traditional old legend, among the Native American Indians of this valley, was that it is a very ancient place, the "earth place" the place of the Indian's "beginnings".

It was they, the ancient ones, who named this volcanic region "the valley of many moons", meaning in their language "a very, very-ancient place".

This Sonoma Valley is an ancient place, with hundreds of springs offering medicinal "curing or healing waters". Many of these ponds and springs were plowed under by the early European settlers who came to claim the territory, but the water is still there, under a few feet of earth.

The settler's plow also brought up ancient animal skeletons, from earth within four miles of the present Plaza of Sonoma, around 1867, the head and neck of a huge mastadon, a pre-historic gigantic animal, now housed in the Academy of Natural Sciences in San Francisco.

Ancient Indian village sites have recently been discovered within Sonoma county, not far from the Plaza of Sonoma, showing that the native American Indians lived here some 8,000 years ago, just after the Ice Age.

Old Indian trails ran through the "valley of many moons", to Napa and Clear Lake, to the Suisun bay territory, and north from Sonoma to Santa Rosa and Calistoga, and Healdsburg, and from Sonoma to the coast, to Bodega and Fort Ross.

General Vallejo later built his "Hacienda Petaluma" with Indian skill and labor, on the old Indian trail to the coast. The Old Sonoma Road was once a well-used Indian trail to the coast. The Old Sonoma Road was once a well-used Indian trail, skirting the mountains, in the shade of the old oaks and cottonwoods, near the banks of the winding creeks.

The Pomos of the north were famous throughout the country for their beautiful plumed feather headdresses used in the dance ceremonies and for special occasions.

Some of the plumed headdresses were immense; one headdress was made of 48 brilliantly colored feather spines, which the dancer tried to shake off, one spine at a time. accompanied in ancient rhythm to the music of the flute and the drum.

This dance is one of the oldest of the Kuksu religion. These were the beautiful dances that enthralled young Colonel Vallejo when he founded the Pueblo of Sonoma, and entered into a peace agreement with the native American Indians of this region.

Color, dance steps, type of bird plumes or feathers or down, used, the music of flutes and drum, and the feel of the earth, all were part of these ceremonial dances -- a pagaent of beauty that took over a thousand years to perfect.

These huge feather headdresses had a symbolic meaning in the use of color, and design, and could be read like a book by the native Americans, for the huge feather headdress "told a legend".

The Moquelumne, the "Miwok" people who lived in this territory, made handsomely designed and woven rabbit-fur robes or blankets, works of art.

The Pomos of the north made what are today called "the most beautiful baskets in the world" -- some designed inside and out with exquisite bird feathers, and pendants of mother-of-pearl.

The art of basketry is an ancient one, but fortunately today there are a few gifted native American people who have inherited the craft.

When the Barracks Museum, now under construction, opens to the public next year, with an extensive Native American Indian display, visitors to Sonoma will be able to see some very rare, and old beautiful artifacts from this Sonoma region, showing the early native American Indian way, in this ancient valley of their beginnings, "the valley of many moons."

This is the cast of "The Pioneer's Papoose", a play put on by the students at the Sonoma Grammar School in May, 1921. Victor Erlebach, a former Sonoman who now lives in Napa, was Chief Tomahawk, the Indian standing gazing into space. Other leads were taken by Stanley McGill, Herman Haynes, Radford Keifer, Lucille Sorini, Vesta Prestwood, Grace Barr, Nazel McCosker and Albina Nardi. The old school is now the Sonoma Community Center.

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Gold fever in Sonoma and a man named Lehrke

ONE OF LEHRKE'S COINS
The con man called himself King.

By ROBERT D. PARMELEE

The early Mexican pioneers would have been delighted to find gold in Sonoma, of course, but while they did look, none was found. Such a treasure was later found by the argonauts of '48 and '49 at the mines in the Sierra foothills at least 150 miles away, and some of the luckier gold seekers did bring their loot home to Sonoma.

One of the most notable of these was Granville Swift, a native of Kentucky, born there in 1821, member of the Bear Flag Party -- in general an all-around frontier adventurer.

He acquired enough money to buy Temelec Farm in 1857 and the next year to build Temelec Hall, which still stands, and to which he took his bride, Eliza Tate. So extremely wealthy was Swift that according to family legend he had his own gold coins minted, the most outstanding of which were $50 hexagonal slugs.

THE SAME LEGEND has it that his son William, born at Temelec in 1859, cut his teeth on these gold coins.

Swift's reputed lack of sociability resulted in a divorce, and some bad mining investments forced him to sell Temelec in 1863 and move to Green Valley, California, someplace east of Napa, where he died by accident in 1875.

Following his death a small gold treasure was found in his Green Valley house, and his surviving friends and family, knowing how careless Swift had been about money, spread the rumor that he might have buried gold in Sonoma.

Of course, lots of Sonomans looked for it, but nothing was found -- until 1914 when a San Francisco real estate man named Albert W. Lehrke startled the localites by telling them that by following instructions given him in a dream he had been able to find Swift's treasure buried at his (Lehrke's) Los Amigos ranch on Fowler Creek Road near Arnold Drive.

Lehrke is supposed to have told his wife Marie and son Henry that at 4 a.m. on April 24, 1914, following the insturctions in his dream he went to the cellar of the old Rixford house on his ranch and after digging down only six inches found a dutch oven containing 92 pounds, 6 ounces, 20 pennyweight of gold, having a value by weight of $42,600, including five $50 slugs, 160 $20 double eagles, and the balance in gold dust and bars -- a startling story, but could it be believed?

WHATEVER LEHRKE found, he managed to conceal it from the people in Sonoma by taking his find directly to San Francisco, bringing back with him only brass replicas of the purported real gold $50 slugs, the obverse being an accurate replica, but the reverse bearing flattering words calling Lehrke King of the Valley of the Moon.

Doubt persisted about the discovery, partly because Lehrke was a comparative newcomer to the valley but also because of his subsequent behavior and activities.

He first came to Sonoma in 1911 to purchase the Carmody Ranch of some 320 acres, on which stood the Rixford house. He sold off a few lots of that property, and on the strength of his purported gold discovery bought, in June of 1914, on credit, the Pleasant Valley Resort at Vineburg from Enrico and Catherina Forni and additional Vineburg lots from Louis and Anna Rouque.

He changed the name of the resort to New Vineburg, but he was soon in financial trouble. When Vineburg farmer William Moskowitz asked for his wages due for baling hay, Lehrke refused to pay.

There was a fight and subsequently a lawsuit for assault and battery. At the trial Moskowitz testified that he did not believe that Lehrke found any treasure or coin and that the whole scheme was hatched to avoid payment of bills.

ANOTHER LAWSUIT involved Lehrke and Anible Maffei, wherein each sued the other for damages for alleged injuries caused in a fight, probably also about money.

What little credibility Lehrke had vanished when he was found dead, an apparent suicide, at the Hammond Baths in San Francisco on May 1, 1917, after having been missing since April 23rd of that year, and after having told his relatives that he was going to commit suicide.

But if Lehrke did not find Swift's treasure, is it still around? This writer has seen a $50 gold slug embedded in a silver martingale supposedly from a Sonoma farm, and occasionally he hears rumors about a still-buried pot of gold.

Intriguing, but actually Sonomans have known for a long time that the pot of gold has already been found -- by residents and tourists alike -- in the sheer gentleness of life in Sonoma, in its kind climate, its visual splendor, its historic treasures, and general congeniality. Not a "buried treasure," but very definitely a treasure.

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Vintage Festival Greetings

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Oldtimer recalls 1897 Festival

Scene in the Vale of Pansies on the Rhine Farm Near Sonoma
During the Moonlight Production of Benjamin Weed's Grecian Drama.

By HAROLD VAN COOPS

Now that we are embarking on the Vintage Festival of 1977, I wonder how many are alive who witnessed the Bacchus Festival of 1897.

My cousin Leland Volquardsen and I remember some of it, although we were only four years old at the time.

The Festival took place in Pansy Valley, below the old Arrowhead slide on the Black mountain. It wasn't far from where the old Dresel house stood, near the Bundschu home that stands there today.

To get there from Sonoma the people who drove out by way of Buena Vista forded two small streams. We lived where the Stornetta Dairy is now, so we passed the Thompsen place, the Lowell orchards, the Ellis stage stop and dance hall, the Glaister winery and vineyards, the Proletti vineyards and cellar, the Bill place; and finally through the Rhine Farm, past the Dresel, Winkle, and Gundlach-Bundschu places to arrive at Pansy Valley.

THE GATHERING of the Valley people and their surreys, spring wagons, carts, and saddle horses was quite a sight.

The first chore was to unhitch and feed the horses. They were tied to the wagons and fed in the wagon bed. The saddle horses were tied to the fence. Their snorting, stamping and chomping was a delight for us young fry to listen to.

The wagon seats were removed from the wagons and served as seats around the picnic fires. Things livened up with a few fiddlers playing at each family group. The singing and dancing and visiting from fire to fire, with a lot of good-natured kidding as we ate our picnic lunches, made it an occasion to remember.

At dusk, kerosene lanterns were lit -- they came in several colors. Did someone say babysitters? Heck, no -- we were members of the family , and where they went, we children naturally went along. When the moon came over the mountain, and "lebenty-leben zillion" stars came out, it was time for the play.

THE PLAY ITSELF was an outgrowth of the German festivals in the "Old Country" -- the Rhineland. It was built around the Greek myth of Bacchus, the god of wine.

Otto Dresel, a year older than I, took the part of Bacchus. A great red flare announced the coming of Jupiter, when Bacchus' mother, Semele, was burned to ashes by his immortal radiance.

As we were children, the story was entirely over our heads, so to describe it, I quote from Milton's "Camus."

"Bacchus that first from out
the purple grape
Crushed the sweet poison of
misused wine,
After the Tuscan mariners
transformed,
Coasting the Tyrrhene shore
as the winds listed
On Circe's island fell; (who
knows not Circe,
The daughter of the Sun?
whose charmed cup
Whoever tasted lost his
upright shape,
And downward fell into a
grovelling swine.)"

The road home was interesting in the dark -- no lights except moonlight. We departed quietly, one by one, thrilled and happy with our adventure.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The Bacchus Festival was produced by high school principal Benjamin Weed who later went on to establish the Greek Theatre at U. C. Berkeley.)

We're festive during the festival

dresses sportswear lingerie
PLAZA 25

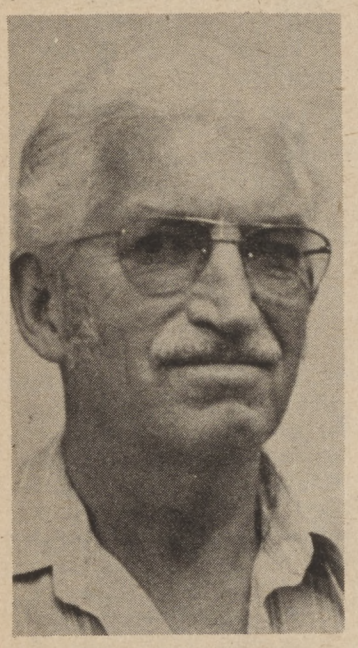
Have a great time and stop in to see us.

On the Plaza
25 E. Napa St. Sonoma 996-2426

The Champlin family's 121 years in Sonoma Valley

By BRAD CHAMPLIN

The other day I walked into Sonoma Valley High School for the first time in a half-century and faced a metal plaque over the big door to what used to be the gym. It said "Golton Hall" and I remember Mr. Golton -- tall, dark-haired, prominent-nosed, a brooding man -- who was the principal when I was a freshman there in 1924, the first year of the new building.



BRAD CHAMPLIN

Then I drove a short distance toward town and saw again, behind an automobile agency, the tan-stuccoed remnant of the 1906-built high school which replaced the earthquake-damaged original where my Dad was one-half of the first graduating class, in 1894, the other half being Bessie Knight.

There my mother, Maude Fraser, taught math in 1906-1908. She lived in the boarding house at No. 735 on the west side of Broadway. One of her students (Alice Picetti of 387 East Napa street today) says that frequently mother was walked home by a tall, skinny youth named Charles Champlin. That figures. I was conceived in 1909.

TURNING EAST on Napa, I saw at left the former grammar school where slim, towering cypresses punctuate the red-brick expanse and I remember Jesse Prestwood, the principal, saying in 1923, "I bought those for shrubs and now look at 'em!"

But especially I remember throughout my boyhood in Sonoma that inside the post office was a sign saying "Population 1040". Every so often, when I came out of the Carnegie Library with an armful of Sabatini novels, I'd cross the street and look at that sign again. It never changed. When I went away to college in 1928 it still said "Population 1040"

Nor can I ever forget Watmaugh School on the west side of the valley. It had one room for the 18 kids in eight grades. The teacher was Alice Young, who became Mrs. Reuben Woodworth and today lives at 846 Broadway. Some of us boys had a crush on the teacher; mine has lasted 55 years.

Watmaugh was not the first westside school, however. First was a tiny building on the hillside behind the Champlin ranch house a couple of miles farther up Stage Gulch road. It was taught by Adeline Bradford Park, a Boston school teacher who boarded with the Champlins and soon married the muscular young giant, Asahel Champlin.

Their son Charles, my Dad, fell in love with General Vallejo's beautiful granddaughter Anita in 1897 when he was 21. But his mother said "No, Charlie, no. You are going immediately to the university at Berkeley." Anita married young Dr. Allen Thompson, who practiced in Sonoma for many decades. He sewed me up a few times and treated our family's infrequent illnesses.

ONE FULL century of births and deaths took place in the

Please turn to Page 42

Kay's

FABRICS

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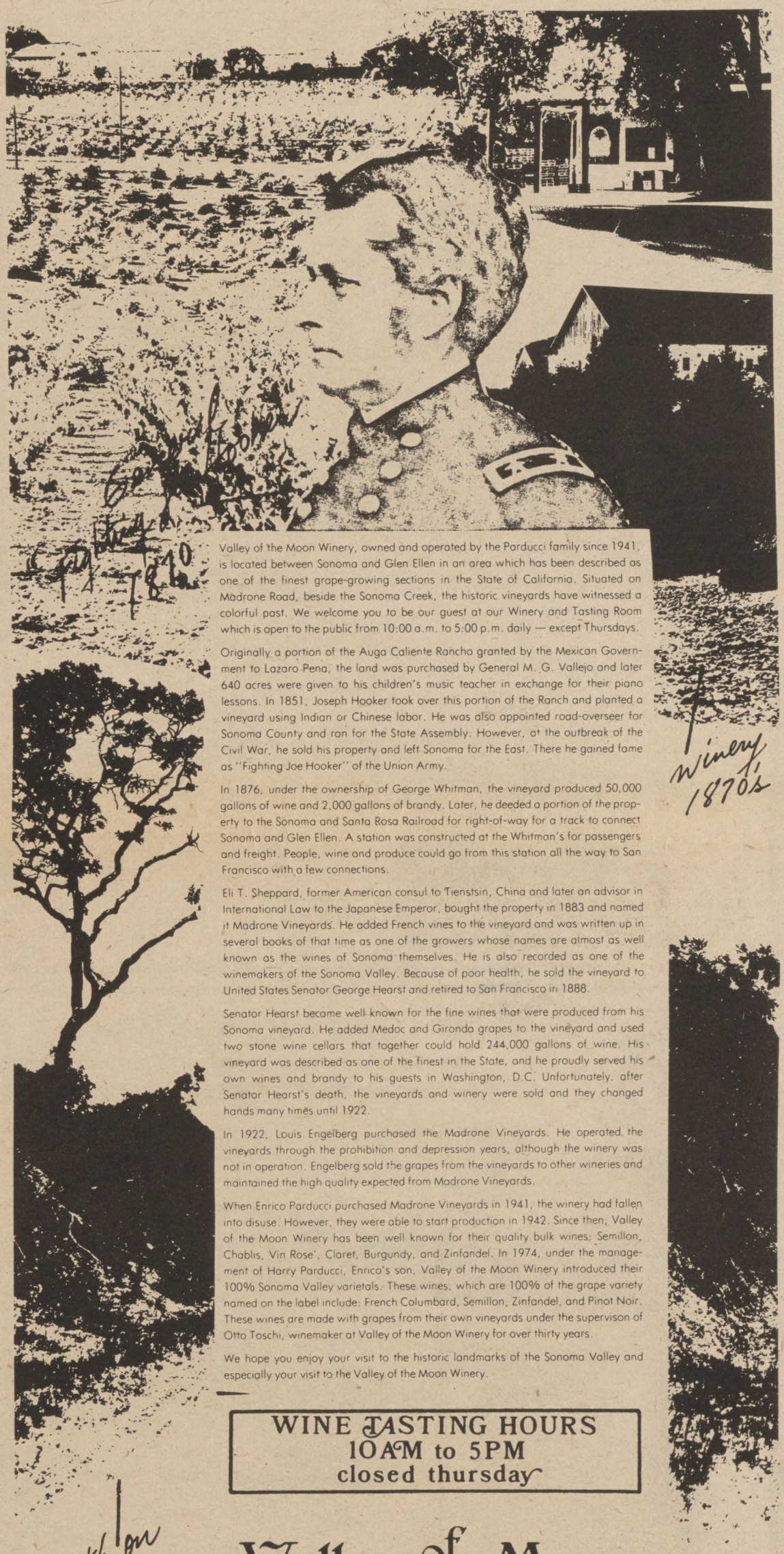
On the Plaza

15 E. Napa St. 996-3515

Sonoma



winery 1870s

North on Highway 12 1883

Valley of the Moon Winery, owned and operated by the Parducci family since 1941, is located between Sonoma and Glen Ellen in an area which has been described as one of the finest grape-growing sections in the State of California. Situated on Madrone Road, beside the Sonoma Creek, the historic vineyards have witnessed a colorful past. We welcome you to be our guest at our Winery and Tasting Room which is open to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily — except Thursdays.

Originally a portion of the Auga Caliente Rancho granted by the Mexican Government to Lazaro Pena, the land was purchased by General M. G. Vallejo and later 640 acres were given to his children's music teacher in exchange for their piano lessons. In 1851, Joseph Hooker took over this portion of the Ranch and planted a vineyard using Indian or Chinese labor. He was also appointed road-overseer for Sonoma County and ran for the State Assembly. However, at the outbreak of the Civil War, he sold his property and left Sonoma for the East. There he gained fame as "Fighting Joe Hooker" of the Union Army.

In 1876, under the ownership of George Whitman, the vineyard produced 50,000 gallons of wine and 2,000 gallons of brandy. Later, he deeded a portion of the property to the Sonoma and Santa Rosa Railroad for right-of-way for a track to connect Sonoma and Glen Ellen. A station was constructed at the Whitman's for passengers and freight. People, wine and produce could go from this station all the way to San Francisco with a few connections.

Eli T. Sheppard, former American consul to Tienstsin, China and later an advisor in International Law to the Japanese Emperor, bought the property in 1883 and named it Madrone Vineyards. He added French vines to the vineyard and was written up in several books of that time as one of the growers whose names are almost as well known as the wines of Sonoma themselves. He is also recorded as one of the winemakers of the Sonoma Valley. Because of poor health, he sold the vineyard to United States Senator George Hearst and retired to San Francisco in 1888.

Senator Hearst became well known for the fine wines that were produced from his Sonoma vineyard. He added Medoc and Gironda grapes to the vineyard and used two stone wine cellars that together could hold 244,000 gallons of wine. His vineyard was described as one of the finest in the State, and he proudly served his own wines and brandy to his guests in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, after Senator Hearst's death, the vineyards and winery were sold and they changed hands many times until 1922.

In 1922, Louis Engelberg purchased the Madrone Vineyards. He operated the vineyards through the prohibition and depression years, although the winery was not in operation. Engelberg sold the grapes from the vineyards to other wineries and maintained the high quality expected from Madrone Vineyards.

When Enrico Parducci purchased Madrone Vineyards in 1941, the winery had fallen into disuse. However, they were able to start production in 1942. Since then, Valley of the Moon Winery has been well known for their quality bulk wines: Semillon, Chablis, Vin Rose', Claret, Burgundy, and Zinfandel. In 1974, under the management of Harry Parducci, Enrico's son, Valley of the Moon Winery introduced their 100% Sonoma Valley varietals. These wines, which are 100% of the grape variety named on the label include: French Columbard, Semillon, Zinfandel, and Pinot Noir. These wines are made with grapes from their own vineyards under the supervison of Otto Toschi, winemaker at Valley of the Moon Winery for over thirty years.

We hope you enjoy your visit to the historic landmarks of the Sonoma Valley and especially your visit to the Valley of the Moon Winery.

WINE TASTING HOURS
10AM to 5PM
closed thursday

Valley of the Moon Winery

777 MADRONE ROAD
GLEN ELLEN, CA.
996-69-41

The Champlin family's 121 years in Sonoma Valley

Continued from Page 41

downstairs bedroom of the white, pillared Champlin ranch house which burned down 20 years ago. Its site can be seen in the cluster of oaks and poplars on the right, just beyond the first bridge after you leave the floor of Sonoma Valley, heading for Petaluma.

My great-granddad, an earlier Charles Champlin, had built it in 1856, the year he bought the 300 acres from General Vallejo. He was one of the seven Republicans in Sonoma Valley who voted for Lincoln. Vallejo, long an avid student of U.S. history, asked him about the issues involved. The two men were amiable friends for 34 years.

About that original 300 acres: Prevailed upon by the ladies of the family, Great-Grandpappy spend much of one winter in San Francisco "for the cultural advantages". When he returned, he found that one neighbor had moved the fence in sufficiently to cut his land total to exactly 270.4 acres. And that was the acreage finally inherited by me and my kid brother Malcolm, who is now a judge in Oakland.

Great-Grandpa never again left the ranch except to shop in town. And his wife? Great-Grandma went often to San Francisco via Stage Gulch Road to Lakeville where she boarded the Steamer Gold. But once, upon return, the driver was drunk, the stage overturned, her shoulder was broken, and she too stayed at home for the rest of her life.

MY DAD, THE later Charles, was more venturesome. He went to Japan and taught French (good accent; he learned it from a priest in Sonoma) and English in a college in Kyoto, the ancient Nipponese capital. Back in California, he attended seminary and became a preacher. One of his "calls" was to San Francisco. There, one day, he bought a pear at a sidewalk stand. Biting it, he said, "On my father's ranch in Sonoma Valley, the pigs are eating better pears. Someday I will return to that ranch."

He did that, right after World War I. He worked hard and we boys learned to ride and fix fence and pitch hay, but Pappy lost his shirt and returned to the ministry

His second try, late in life, was more successful. In semi-retirement he preached at the little white church in Glen Ellen. He enjoyed the best of both worlds: the satisfactions of his profession as well as a leisurely life on the ranch which he loved with a passion. He died 11 years ago at age 90. His hobbies included history, and about a quarter-century ago he was elected president of Sonoma Valley Historical Society.

One of his sons became a lawyer. The other became an editor, finally retired, went back to school at Sonoma State, wrote his Master's thesis on General Vallejo and his Petaluma Adobe, and last year presented a slide-illustrated talk on that subject to the Sonoma Valley Historical Society. Full circle!

SONOMA PROPERTIES

Three offices to serve you and all your real estate needs.

591 Broadway, Sonoma 938-1500

18340 Sonoma Hwy., Boyes Hot Springs 938-1224

800 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa 527-5211

THE VASQUEZ HOUSE
Will have photo exhibit during Festival

The Great Root Bear

invites you to pay a visit to our completely remodeled, spacious air conditioned indoor restaurant for the entire family.

Enjoy our world famous A & W Root beer and delicious burger family cooked to order.

OPEN DAILY UNTIL 10 PM - FRI. & SAT. UNTIL 11 PM

602 W. Napa st. Sonoma 938-0779

Woman's Club started first library here

The Sonoma Public Library in the Plaza was first started as a reading room by the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club in October, 1903. It became a public library in August, 1909, in which year the city accepted it and agreed to maintain it.

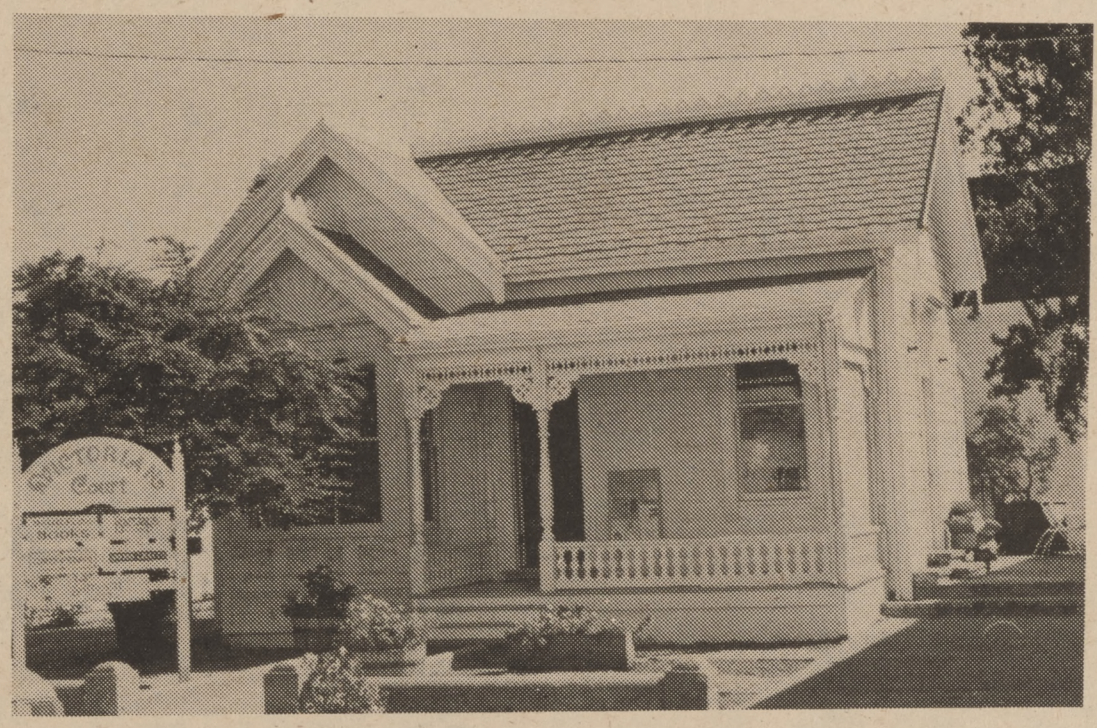
The present building was made possible through an Andrew Carnegie grant and program providing individual communities with their own public libraries.

Vallejo sired 17 children

General M. G. Vallejo, Sonoma's founder, was the sire of 17 children. This numerous offspring was the result of his union with the beautiful senorita Francesca Benicia Carrillo, an estimable lady of Castillian ancestry who outlived him but a short time at the old home in Sonoma.

The General died here on January 18, 1890 at the age of 82.

VICTORIAN COURT



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PROGRAM

Supplement
to
The Sonoma Index-Tribune
September 22, 1977

Friday, September 23

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Annual Wine Tasting for Patrons	Chateau St. Jean Winery

Saturday, September 24

11:30 a.m.	Blessing of the Grapes	At the Mission
12 Noon to 5 p.m.	★See "Note" below	N. W. Corner Plaza
12:00 to 2 p.m.	Larry Dunaway's Western Band★★	S. W. Corner of Plaza
1:00 p.m.	Vallejo-Haraszthy Wedding	At the Mission
2:00 p.m.	Bear Flag Revolt Re-enactment	N. E. Corner Plaza
2 to 4 p.m.	Dixielanders★★	S. E. Corner Plaza
3:00 p.m.	Three-Fingered Jack	Front of Swiss Hotel, North Side of Plaza
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Los Ritmitcos★★	Grinstead Memorial Amphitheatre
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.	Spanish Ball	Sonoma Mission Inn

Sunday, September 25

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Dixielanders★★	Grinstead Memorial Amphitheatre
12:00 Noon	Native American Indian-Kashia Pomo "Hosia and Ioto Manew Recreational Dances"	N. W. Corner Plaza
12 Noon to 2 p.m.	Walt Oster's 20-piece Jazz Ensemble★★	S. W. Corner Plaza
12 Noon to ??	Sonoma Moonlite Spinners Dave Wischemann, Caller	S. E. Corner Plaza
1:00 to 2:00 p.m.	Vallejo-Haraszthy Wedding	At the Mission
2:00 p.m.	Vintage Parade	East, South and West sides of Plaza
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Clara Carbonaro Greco Accordion Ensemble	N. E. Corner Plaza
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.	Sonoma County Concert Band★★	N. W. Corner Plaza
3:00 p.m.	East Bay Banjo Band	(near exit driveway) S. W. Corner Plaza
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.	Los Ritmitcos★★	Grinstead Memorial Amphitheatre
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.	June Schaal Folk Dancers	N. W. Corner Plaza

★**NOTE: Throughout the two days in various parts of the Plaza unscheduled entertainment will be staged. Please check with the Information Booth for a copy of the schedule of the day. These possibilities include the Sonoma Valley Chorale, Sheri Ekkins and Delipse, John Tyson and Kent Wells, strolling troubadors; Folk Dancing, the Redwood Chordsmen and others.**

★★**Arranged by the Musicians' Local #292 A.F.&M., Santa Rosa in cooperation with the Music Committee of the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival Association.**

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

276 E. Napa St.

Both Saturday and Sunday

Flower Show Plant Sale Country Kitchen
(Auspices Valley of the Moon Garden Club)

Display of Gems and Rocks
(Valley of the Moon Gem and Mineral Club)

Arts and Crafts Displays
All activities at the Center will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

INFORMATION CENTER

Located in the center of Sonoma Plaza at the head of Broadway.

STAGECOACH AND BUGGY RIDES

There will be STAGECOACH RIDES and OPEN VICTORIAN RIDES in the country obtainable at the Toscano Hotel, Spain St., both Saturday and Sunday.

WINDOW DISPLAYS

Stores and offices all around the Sonoma Plaza area will feature a wide variety of window displays, most of them nostalgic reflections on "the good old days" here, or relating to the harvest and wines of the Valley of the Moon. Ribbons will be awarded to the most outstanding windows following inspection by a panel of judges. Stores in the West Plaza and Valley Mart complexes, along with those in the Plaza area are participating in the competition.

THE HOMETOWN PARADE

One of the Vintage Festival Highlights, especially for the participating children, is the old-fashioned Hometown Parade to take place around the Plaza on Sunday, starting at 2 p.m. Just find a spot anywhere on the four sides of the plaza and you'll have a front row seat along the line of march. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories.

Invited to Festival as honor guests

PROPERTY OF
VASQEZ HOUSE LIBRARY

Invited to be honored guests at the Vintage Festival's Blessing of the Grapes ceremony on Saturday in front of the Sonoma Mission are U.S. Senators Alan Cranston and S.I. Hayakawa, Congressman Don Clausen, State Senator John F. Dunlap, Assemblyman Mike Gage, Supervisor Brian Kahn and Mayor of Sonoma Henry Riboni.

Guests of honor for the Festival in general will be Mr. and Mrs. Erskine Bufano.

2021.3.107